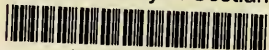


ACCOUNT OF THE
VANCE FAMILY &c.

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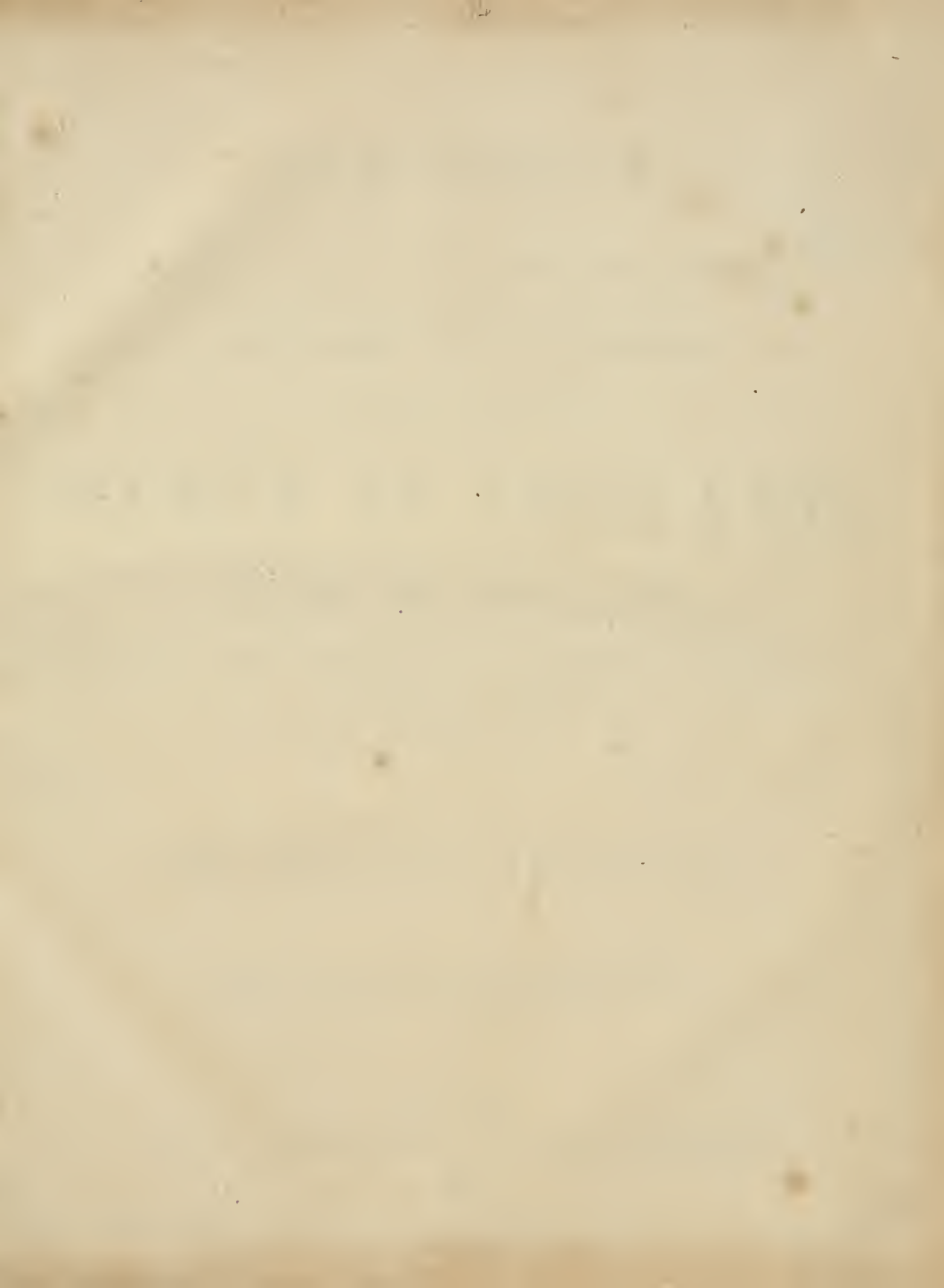
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AN ACCOUNT,
HISTORICAL AND GENEALOGICAL,
Vance Arms
From the Earliest Days till the Present Time,
OF THE FAMILY OF
VANCE IN IRELAND,
VANS IN SCOTLAND,

ANCIENTLY VAUX IN SCOTLAND AND ENGLAND, AND, ORIGINALLY
DE VAUX IN FRANCE,

(LATIN DE VALLIBUS.)

BY WILLIAM BALBIRNIE.

PRINTED SOLELY FOR USE OF THE VANCE FAMILY.

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1860.



LAURISTON CASTLE
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PREFATORY REMARKS.

THAT people in the lower walks of life—the great business of whose life is a struggle, a care of how best they can keep soul and body together, should know little of their antecedents, or care to know, is not much to be wondered at, but that persons in a higher grade—holding a respectable position in the world, should not care to enquire who and whence they are, partakes rather of the marvellous; and yet how many are there of those not merely conventionally called respectable, but members of really genteel or polite society, if asked who or what were, or what, did or said their grandfather could scarcely tell, and if asked of their great grandfather, would start at the inquiry, as if like Topsy, struck with a bewildering idea, and but for the policy which teaches people of some education to hold their tongues when a puzzling question is asked, would give an answer analogous to that of hers, “'specks I had none.”

We could sympathise with such ignorance—for sometimes ignorance is bliss, in those strong-minded, high-spirited men, of indomitable purpose and perseverance, who from low, perhaps the lowest grades of human society, have raised themselves into position, challenging the esteem, admiration, and applause it may be, of their fellow-citizens; but that their more fortunate cotemporaries, who know, or have reason to believe that their immediate predecessors were persons of honour, respectability, and some distinction, and that their more distant ones bulked somewhat conspicuously in the public eye, should not care to enquire a little further, to know who and what sort of persons they have sprung from, argues an absence to a great degree of that curiosity, that restless spirit of enquiry, that desire to know something of which we know little or nothing, which is so distinctive an attribute of the human mind.

We will not now enquire how all this happens, but would remark that this dormant spirit of curiosity and inquiry will seldom fail to be evoked by authentic details, of our progenitors, and all the more so if it be shewn that these were persons of consideration,—distinguished for qualities reckoned great or good.

We propose to ourself to challenge the attention of those whom it may concern to the records we have culled of one of "the most ancient and distinguished families in European genealogy," namely that of VANCE, as it is spelled in Ireland, VANS in Scotland, and anciently VAUX in Scotland and England, and DE VAUX in France.

Here at the very outset a question may arise in our reader's mind, which it would be well to anticipate, how happens it that you bearing so different a name, should take so great an interest in the one in question, and be at such a vast amount of trouble and expense to trace it through its varied ramifications up to the most remote period of antiquity. Well, we were asked to do it, and promised to be remunerated; not indeed in the first instance asked to do what we have accomplished—he who asked us dreamt not at the time of such a thing—but if he had and had stated so—so utterly incompetent should we have considered ourself for so grave a task, that we should have laughed to scorn the individual, as either wishing to make a fool of us, or of himself, in preferring so apparently absurd a request.

Although we do not bear the name, we are proud to bear the lineage derived from an admirable mother, a lady of noble and commanding *personnel*, of rare mental, moral, and physical endowments, of strong good (common) sense—of fertility of genius, otherwise presence of mind, and of warm affections.

The name too is borne by a lovely—a much-loved daughter of our own—the light of our eyes—the joy of our heart. One, who to grace of person, vouchsafed but to the few—a disposition the frankest, gayest, sweetest—a heart the most affectionate, and manners the most pleasing and engaging, adds a fine musical talent, manifested in exquisite touch, and good, if not brilliant execution on the piano, and in a soprano voice of great sweetness, considerable power and rare flexibility, whereby she delights (revels) in executing the most difficult Italian music, which she has studied with commendable dilligence and energy, at the Royal Academy of Music, London, under the famous Signor Schirra. This the last remnant of a much loved and joyous hearth was baptised after her grandmother, MARGARET VANCE.

Our eldest brother, Mr. ROBERT ANSTRUTHER BALBIRNIE, J.P. for the City of

Melbourne and Colony of Victoria, whither he emigrated in 1839, arrived in England end of April, 1854, accompanied by his wife, younger son, and six daughters, intending to sojourn in Great Britain for two years. In the following month, in a letter he addressed to us, he said—"I have some work for you if you can do it consistently with your business. * * In Ireland, I wish an extract of my grandfather VANCE's birth, with all his brothers and sisters. Extract of the marriage of ANDREW JACKSON, of Maharafelt, with a sister of grandfather's. Extracts of the birth of mother, her sisters and brother. An extract of father and mother's marriage; lastly of my birth in Larne, 1st October, 1798. In Scotland I have similar work to be done; in the meantime, incur any expense in procuring the above. I also want every family document that can be found among the papers held by our late Aunt Fanny."

Thus requested, we lost very little time in essaying to obey the behest of our parent's first-born, and entering upon what seemed to be a very simple piece of business, an agreeable recreation for a few days of a May month—we soon found that we had calculated without our host; as, in the first place it soon became devolved to our wondering mind, that such was the discreditable way in which things had been managed in Ireland so recently as the latter half of last century, that not one of the registrations of births, baptisms, or marriages were procurable, for this reason, that no public record of one of them was in being, or ever had been. We had therefore no alternative but to endeavour to procure private documentary evidence, and oral testimony from the "oldest inhabitants."

At this time we happened upon a M.S. "genealogical account of the family of VANCE or DE VAUX," penned by our uncle, the late Mr. GEORGE WASHINGTON VANCE, of Dublin, which furnished us with some very useful ideas, and led our steps into Scotland for enquiry, whence it was distinctly known the VANCES came into Ireland. This account of Mr. G. W. VANCE, our subsequent researches, enabled us to confirm the correctness of ■ on many points—to determine grave mistakes in some, and great obscurity and contradiction in others. It therefore became our business to endeavour to correct his mistakes, to clear up what was obscure, and to reconcile what was contradictory; how we have succeeded, let our readers judge.

Having early, somewhat to our surprise, made the discovery that the family, previous to its settlement in Ireland, was one of great historical distinction and antiquity in Scotland, England, and France, we felt interested—coerced—to pursue the investigation to its utmost limits, and to prepare a really authentic, and as far as possible, substantially correct, and well-connected chain of the genealogy of the VANCE (VANS) family.

To most members of the family of VANCE, in Ireland in late years, grown very numerous, and to a large extent retaining great respectability, it will be new to learn that their common ancestry in days of yore were ennobled in England in three separate branches, and in Scotland in one. It is many centuries since two of the noble houses of VAUX, in England, became extinct for want of male heirs, and nearly two centuries that the last peerage became dormant, remaining in abeyance till 1838, that it was renewed in the person of GEORGE MOSTYN, Esq., a gentleman of Irish extraction, as heir male to MARY, sister to the late Lord VAUX, of Harrowden, who was as far as we have ascertained, the last male in England who bore the name of VAUX.

In Scotland, however, the name has ever subsisted since its first introduction (only it has been changed to VANS) in the early part of the 12th century, when the family became ennobled by the title of Lords VAUX, of Dirleton Castle, in East Lothian, which title became extinct about the close of the 15th century, from not being claimed by male heirs, a circumstance which it is difficult to account for, as not long before the title fell into abeyance, a younger brother of the last, or previous Lord VAUX, of Dirleton, settled in Wigtonshire, and that family (from which sprung most of the Irish VANCES) has ever since subsisted, being the VANS of Barnbarroch, which has all along been a family of great distinction, giving to the State many belted knights, bishops, Judges, Secretaries of State, Ambassadors, Members of Parliament, &c., &c.; this younger branch of the DE VAUX family, (although in many of its members bearing titles) has never been ennobled. The genealogist PLAYFAIR, says, "though not elevated to the peerage, this family from its first establishment has been in the rank of the first order of Barons, holding their estates *in capite* by Royal Charter, conferring upon their possessors all the rights and important privileges of free baronies, according to the most extensive sense of the word, as used in Scottish law."

We close our Prefatory Remarks by observing, that in December, 1854, our brother assumed the name of VANCE (adopting the Scottish spelling VANS) by sign manual of Her Majesty the Queen, at which time the state of his health, and urgent private business induced him to return to Melbourne, leaving his family in England, intending to return in a few months, but was arrested by the hand of death in August, 1855, at Melbourne, in consequence of which, our heavy labour has met no reward; previously, however, to his sailing for Australia, Mr. ROBERT ANSTRUTHER BALBIRNIE—VANS refunded us our actual money outlay up to that time, which amounted to a considerable sum, much above £100 sterling. Having entered upon the work; we have these years been quietly adding to our stock of information as opportunity offered, and having prosecuted diligently this season a final series of enquiries, we commit the whole to the printer, having striven to make the production as interesting and correct, as dry and often hard to be obtained genealogical information would admit, and hope the members of the VANCE family, for whom alone it is sent to press, will be gratified, if not edified, by the details.



GENEALOGICAL AND HISTORICAL ACCOUNT

OF THE FAMILY OF

VANCE, VANS, OR DE VAUX.

ON the Continent of Europe, the de Vaux family have been Dukes of Andrea, Princes of Joinville, Taranta, and Altamara—Sovereign Counts of Orange and Provence, and Kings of Vienne and Arles, as well as Lords de Vaux in Normandy.

In 1066, three brothers, Herbert, Rundolph, and Robert, the sons of Harold de Vaux, Lord of Vaux, in Normandy, accompanied William the Conqueror to England, and there their descendants became Lords de Vaux of Pentney and Brevor, in Norfolk, of Gilliesland in Cumberland, and of Harrowden in Northamptonshire.

From Herbert, descended the Barons Vaux, of Gilliesland, which line terminated in an heiress, who carried the Barony of Gilliesland to the family of Multon, from which it passed to that of Dacre.

Rundolph, the second son, was ancestor to the Vaux's of Tryermaine, and maternally of Lord Brougham and Vaux. In 1383, Sir John de Burgham was knight of the shire for the County of Cumberland. He married the daughter and heiress of John de Tynedale, and his daughter Alice married John Vaux of Catterlan. Thomas Burgham, Lord of Burgham, in 1553, married Jane, daughter and heiress of John Vaux, of Catterlan and Tryermaine, and had two sons, Henry Burgham and Peter, from one of whom the great law lord, Henry, Lord Brougham and Vaux, is descended, who in his arms for Vaux of Catterlan, quarters (2nd)—Or, a fesse chequy, gold and gules between 3 garbs of the 3rd, banded of the first, in chief a label of three points azure, for Vaux of Tryermaine (4th)—Argent a bend chequy, Or and gules. (See Burke's Peerage.)

Robert, the third son of Harold, Lord de Vaux of Normandy, was the ancestor of the Lords Vaux of Harrowden. His great grandson, Oliver Vaux, distinguished himself in the reign of King John, by the services which he rendered to the barons, who obtained Magna Charta. The male line of the family was maintained by his fourth son,

Roger Vaux, whose great grandson, Elias Vaux, obtained the Manor of Harrowden by his marriage with the heiress.

William Vaux, of Harrowden, Roger's grandson, married Eleanor, daughter of Sir Thomas Draketon, of Welby, and was father of

Sir William Vaux, of Harrowden, who married Matilda, daughter of Sir Walter Lacy, and had a son and heir,

Sir William Vaux, of Harrowden, who adhered to King Henry VI., and was slain at the battle of Tewkesbury.

Upon the accession of Edward the IV., Nicholas Vaux, son and heir of Sir William, was despoiled of his estates in virtue of an act of attainder passed against his father, but in the 1st of Henry VII., this attainder was totally reversed, and Nicholas, then Sir Nicholas, was restored to all the possessions of which he had been deprived. Sir Nicholas was highly distinguished as a statesman and warrior, and was much in favour with Henry VII. and Henry VIII. By the latter he was summoned to Parliament as Baron Vaux, of Harrowden, the 27th April, 1523, but did not long enjoy his honours, as he died 24th May following. His Lordship married two wives, by the first he had no issue male, but by the second, Anne, daughter of Thomas Green, of Greens Norton, he had (with three daughters) two sons, of whom the elder,

Thomas, Lord Vaux, was only twelve years of age at his father's death. He took his seat in Parliament on attaining his majority, in the 22nd of Henry VIII.; he married Elizabeth, sole daughter and heiress of Sir Thomas Cheney, of Urthingborough, in Northamptonshire, and died in 1562. This peer is noticed as having been a poet, and mentioned with honour in the "catalogue of Royal and Noble authors." He was succeeded by his son,

William, third Lord Vaux, of Harrowden, who was several times convicted of recusancy, and as often imprisoned and fined. His Lordship married first, Elizabeth, daughter of John Beaumont, Esq., of Grace Dieu, and had issue, Henry, who died without issue in his father's lifetime, and three daughters; he married secondly, Mary, daughter of John Tresham, Esq., of Rushton, County of Northampton, and by that lady, had George, who died in his father's lifetime (leaving, by Elizabeth his wife, daughter of John, first Lord Teynham, Edward, successor to his grandfather, William, who died in childhood, and Henry, who succeeded his brother), second, Mary, from whom the present Lord Vaux, of Harrowden, descends; third, Joyce, a nun who died in 1664; fourth, Catherine, who married Henry, Lord Abergavenny, and her present representatives are the Earl of Pembroke, and Edward B. Hartopp, Esq., of Little Dalby, County Leicester; fifth and sixth, Edward and Sir Ambrose Vaux, who left no issue.

William, Lord Vaux, died in 1595, and was succeeded by his grandson, Edward, fourth Lord Vaux, of Harrowden, who married Elizabeth, daughter of Thomas, Earl of Suffolk and widow of William, first Earl of Bunbury.

By this lady, his lordship had no legitimate issue ; but upon her two sons (who bore the name of Vaux, but were born in the lifetime of Lord Bunbury), he settled Harrowden and the other family estates, which eventually devolved upon Nicholas, Lady Bunbury's youngest son.

His lordship died in October, 1661, and was succeeded by his only surviving brother, Henry, last Lord Vaux, of Harrowden, who died unmarried, 26th September, 1662. Upon his lordship's death, the Barony of Harrowden fell into abeyance, and so continued until her Majesty, Queen Victoria, was pleased to determine in favour of George Mostyn, the present Lord Vaux, of Harrowden.

Mary, the eldest sister of Henry, Lord Vaux, married Sir George Symeon, of Brightwell, Oxfordshire, and dying about the year 1662, was succeeded by her only surviving daughter, Elizabeth Symeon, who married first William Conyers, of Stockwell, Durham, by whom she had three daughters, the two youngest died unmarried, the eldest, Anne Conyers, married Francis, Earl of Shrewsbury, by whom she had an only daughter, Lady Mary Talbot, who became the wife of John Stoner, Esq., of Stoner, County of Oxford, and was ancestor of the present Thomas Stoner, Lord Camoys.

Elizabeth Symeon married secondly Edmond, Viscount Mountgarrett, to whom she was second wife, by whom she had an only son Edward Butler, who survived his mother, from this Edward Butler, George Mostyn, now Lord Vaux, of Harrowden, is descended ; but in England, the name of Vaux seems to have become extinct by the death of Henry Vaux, Lord of Harrowden, in 1662. It has not, however, become extinct in Britain. In Scotland it has continued to flourish with some change in the orthography and in Ireland, with a further change therein, it has become exceedingly numerous, having taking its origin in that country, from Scotland, at an early part of the 17th century, and numerous offshoots of this latter branch is to be found scattered throughout the great Continent of America.

We now proceed to trace the Scottish branch of the De Vaux family. The celebrated antiquarian, George Chalmers, of Auldhouse, F.R.S. & F.S.S.A., recently deceased, in his "Caledonia, or an account, historical and typographical, of North Britain," page 586, observes, "a branch of the English family of Vaux, or Vallibus, settled in the South of Scotland, and became progenitors of several respectable families of that name," and the learned historian and antiquarian, Sir James Dalrymple, observes,* "that the ancient surname of Vans in later charters, called De Vallibus, is the same with the name of Vaux in England, and is one of the first surnames that appeared there after the Conquest."

In Scotch Heraldry it is recorded that "few of the ancient names of Scotland can trace their origin to so distinguished a foreign source as that of Vans, or more properly Vaus or De Vaux."

* Appendix to the Collection relating to Scotch History.

Hubert de Vaux, the eldest of the three brothers who accompanied the Conqueror into England in 1066, married Gracia, of what family is unknown, and left two sons, Robert and Rundolph. From Rundolph there is a certainty of the first Scottish settler being descended.

We take leave to quote from "Playfair's baronetage of Scotland," what that accomplished antiquarian and heraldist records of the family, and of their ancestry. He is descanting on the family of Vans, of Barnbarroch, in Wigtonshire, the undoubted male representative in Great Britain, of the Vaux, Lords of Normandy, the other branches in the male line being long since extinct, as we have said, and thus proceeds—

"This family combines within itself the blood of some of the most ancient names in European genealogy, as the present representative is by paternal descent, the heir male of the Lords Vaux, Vaus, or Vans, of Dirleton Castle, in East Lothian, a noble race, who were numbered among the Magnates Scotia as early as 1244, who are indubitably descended from the same general stem, as the three noble houses now extinct, of Vaux, of Gilliesland, of Brevor, and of Harrowden,* in England, and all of Norman descent at the period of the Conquest.

"Though not elevated to the peerage, yet this family has from its earliest establishment been in the rank of the first order of barons, holding their estates *in capite* by Royal Charter, conferring upon their possessors all the rights and important privileges of free baronies, according to the most extensive sense of the word as used in Scottish law. It has been the custom, (he continues), of genealogical flatterers to carry the pedigree of their patrons up to Charlemagne; this, however, is impossible in the present case, as this family actually deduce their paternal descent, by the most authentic documents, from a period of still higher antiquity—their ancestors holding even then a very distinguished rank, their principal residence being the Castle of Baux, situated upon an elevated rock near the City of Arles, where the ruins may yet be seen. There have been many conjectures respecting the rise of the family, previous to its settlement, of ancient barons of Baux,† but the Norman historians (who certainly must be considered as the best authorities of their times) are decidedly of opinion that they are a branch of the Visigothic Balti, a race which boasted of having given a long line of monarchs to the Western Goths, with the formidable name of Alaric at their head. This was in the year 500 of the Christian era, but the first in particular record, is Rollin, or Gossallin de Baux, settled at Baux, in Provence, in 800. He married Herrinbruck, daughter and heiress of William, Sovereign Count of Orange, and niece to Bertha, wife of the Emperor Charlemagne. In 929, Bertrand de Baux, of Provence, went to Normandy, by invitation of the Duke of

* Playfair wrote in early part of the 18th century, and of course during the abeyance of the last title.

† It may not be inappropriate to remark here, that Baux and Vaux are synonymous, as many Continental nations indiscriminately use b and v; we have an apt illustration in Sevastopol—Sebastopol, in the Italian boce, voce, voice, &c., &c.

Normandy; he settled there—the Duke bestowed favours upon him, and he became progenitor of the family of De Vaux, which long held a distinguished rank among the nobles of Normandy. In 1096, Raoul de Vaux, of Normandy, bore the same arms as Baux, of the house of Provence.

Hubert de Vaux, or de Vallibus, was the eldest son of Harold, Lord de Vaux, of Normandy, and was the first lord of parliament, for the Barony of Gilliesland, after the Conquest.

* Rundolph, his son, settled in Scotland, soon after the year 1130, whose son, Phillip de Vallibus, had great possessions on the borders in 1160. He married Elizabeth Comyn, and left a son and heir,

Johannes de Vallibus, who possessed the Barony of Dirleton; he was one of the counsellors, appointed by Alexander of Scotland, for the government of his kingdom at Roxburgh, 20th September, 1255; he was with Comyn, Baliol, Bruce, &c., in 1264, at the siege of Northampton. He left a son,

Alexander de Vallibus, who left a son,

Johannes de Vallibus, Dominus de Dirleton; he was also called de Vaux, and was at one period Sheriff of Edinburgh. He had two sons, and a daughter, married to Sir William de Maule, ancestor to the Earls of Panmure. Sir William de Maule, of Panmure, held the office of Sheriff of Forfarshire, at the death of Alexander III., and swore fealty to Edward I., at St. Andrew's, 12th July, 1292; he married as above stated, Etham, daughter of John Vaux, Lord of Dirleton—the great-grandson of this marriage, was Sir Patrick Maule, ancestor of the subsequent Earls of Panmure, attainted, and of the present Baron Panmure.

The immediate successor of John, Lord Vaux, of Dirleton, was his eldest son,

Thomas Vaux, Lord Dirleton, who is mentioned as being one of the 65 earls and lords who led the Scottish army at the Battle of Halidon-hill, 19th July, 1333. He fell at the Battle of Durham, in 1346, without issue, but the immediate line of descent was carried on by his second son, whose son and heir,

William de Vallibus inherited all the estates of the family; he was one of the Scottish prisoners taken at the Battle of Durham. After being detained for some time in England as a prisoner (See Rymer's *Faed*, Vol. v., p. 534, 584, 599), he returned to Scotland, and his name appears in many of the transactions of that period, especially as a party to the ransom of King David II., and as one of the twelve Scots nobles and knights, who obliged themselves to compel their king either to return to his captivity in England, or to observe the conditions of his ransom, and of the truce concluded in 1357; and also as a witness to

* We should think this a mistake, as from another account we infer, not Rundolph, but a son of his, was the first in Scotland.

the execution of this treaty in England, and to its ratification in Scotland by the King and his parliament. (See Rymer's *Fæd*, Vol. vi., p. 48, 56, 58, 61, 62., and Robertson's *Index*, page 108, No. 23.) William was made steward of the household; for in the Chamberlain Rolls of the year 1358, there is mention "Domine Willielme de Vaus Senescalli, Domus Regis." King David appears to have granted to him the keeping of the Forest of Buyme and Awne, (see Robertson's *Index* page 45, No. 37,) and Patrick, Earl of March and Moray, having granted to him the sheriffship and constabulary of Elgin, it was confirmed to him by the king. William's death must have taken place in 1364, for in the Chamberlain Rolls of that year, mention is made of the ward "*heridas Domine Willielmi de Vaux.*"

William Vaux, by his wife Catherine Douglas, had issue, first Thomas, who was killed at the siege of Berwick, 1355, and second John, who it is alleged, carried on this line of descent, but another account states Thomas's younger brother to be named William, and to have succeeded William, his father, the former William died in 1392, according to "*Caledonia*, Vol. 2, page 410," and was succeeded by two co-heiresses, but whether they were the daughters of Thomas, or of William, is uncertain. The eldest married John, son of Sir Walter Halyburton, of Halyburton, who became Lord of Dirleton, and whose family after a few descents, ended in three co-heiresses, Janet married to William, second Lord Ruthven; Martha, to George, 4th Lord Home; and Margaret to George Ker, of Faudenside, (See Douglas and Wood's *peerage*, Vol. 1, page 689,) the second daughter was married to Sir Patrick Hepburn, younger, of Hailes, ancestor to the well known Earl of Bothwell, the husband of Mary, Queen of Scots, the Earl of Bothwell quartered the arms of Vaux, "argent a bend gules" in his achievement. The Lords Ruthven, Home and Ker of Faudenside, all quartered the arms of Vaux."

Thus it would appear that the Vaux family in Scotland, had in the male line become extinct, this however is very far from being the case, as will presently appear.

Playfair asserts "the male line on the death of William, (1392,) was carried on by his younger son, Johannes Vans, Vaux, or de Vallibus, who went into Galloway (otherwise Wigtonshire,) where he married an heiress about the year 1384, and obtained the lands of Barnbarroch, which he held under the Douglas's who were at that time Lords of Galloway and to whom he was allied." Whether the erudite Playfair be correct here it is difficult to determine, other authorities make no mention of this John, son of William, but merely of Thomas, and William his younger brother and last Lord Vaux, of Dirleton, but we think there is good reason to believe he is mistaken, for indeed there is evidence of another Vaux bearing a different surname, being located in Galloway, anterior to this period.

In an old book entitled "*Histoire des malheures de la France sous le Roi Jean*," *puplie a Paris, chez Barde* 1611, p. 103, Vol. 2 are these words—"Dans ce temps la Le Comte de

Douglas, et son Frere Archimbald, Seigneur de Galloway venoient avec 3000, Ecosais au Secours de Roi. Ils ferent bon service a la bataille de Poictieres (A.D. 1356,) on ils perirent presque tous. Des Hommes de Marqua portant Banniere furent tués—Andre Stevard, tres jeane, mais tres brave ; Robert Gordon Chevelier d'une grand famille ; Andre Haliburton, Homme de Cœur, et de jete ; et Andre Vaus de Galloway, le Frere d'armes du Seigneur Archimbald, le Comte echappa, mais Archimbald fut pris."

Barnes, Hollenshed, Abercrombie, and others mention Sir Andrew Vaux to have been killed at the battle of Poitiers ; and this Sir Andrew is believed to have been the younger brother of William, of Dirleton, who died in 1364, to have settled in Galloway, and to have been succeeded by another, Sir Andrew, who according to Dr. Brady, in his "History of the succession of the Crown," and Barnes, in his "History of Edward Third," p. 798, was one of those present, and consenting to the settlement of the Scots Crown, made at Scone, in 1373. His younger son, it is thought, was Alexander, Bishop of Galloway, from 1426 to 1451.

Chalmers, in his account of the Dirleton family (Caledonia, Vol. ii., p. 436), omits several generations, and in Vol. iii., page 396, he makes a curious mistake, for he considers the Barnbarroch and Shenchon families as distinct, whereas they are the same. On the same page however he justly observes, "the name has been changed from Vaus to Vans, a change peculiar to this shire. And although he does not dispute the Barnbarroch branch being descended from a younger son of the Dirleton family, he thinks Alexander Vaux, Bishop of Galloway in 1426, was the first of his name in Wigtonshire.

"We have seen," Playfair asserts, "the male line on the death of William was carried on by his younger son John, who went into Galloway, and married about 1384," but at the battle of Poitiers, 1356, twenty-eight years earlier, we have also seen Sir Andrew Vaus, who came out of Galloway, was slain, and it is hinted this Sir Andrew was a younger brother of William, Lord Vaux, and if so, uncle to the last William, Lord Vaux. Sir Andrew's son was also Sir Andrew," and the account goes on to say his son and successor was John. Playfair's account also gives John, as the name of the Vans of Barnbarroch, of this time, so both accounts agree on this particular, while they differ as to who said John's father and grandfather were, subsequently both accounts pretty much resemble each other. This John Vans of Barnbarroch, married E. Kennedy—doubtless of the Cassillis family. He was sent in 1437, together with Alexander Dominus de Gordon, Alexander Dominus de Montgomery and Johannes Methvin Clericas, as ambassadors from James 2nd of Scotland, to Henry VI. of England, (see Rymer's Faed, Vol. 2, page 389, &c.,) along with these persons also, he concluded a truce with England in 1438, (see Redpath's Border History, p. 404,) his younger sons were Ninian, who is believed to have been Bishop of Galloway ;

Martin, who was Almoner and Confessor to James III., and Ambassador to Denmark in 1468, and John of Lochslin, in Rosshire.*

Before proceeding further with the pedigree of the Vans of Barnbarroch, we will take leave to submit to our readers what Nisbet, author of "System of Heraldry," says of them, it is believed copied from Sir James Dalrymple. "One of the family came to Scotland in the reign of David. In the reign of his grandson and successor, Malcolm IV., mention is made of Phillip de Vallibus, who had possessions in the South, on the Border; and soon after that, we have mention of the family of the Vallibus, or Vans, proprietors of the Lands and Barony of Dirleton, in East Lothian.

"Johannes de Vallibus, Dominus de Dirleton, gave in pure and perpetual alms to the Episcopal See of Glasgow, *docem marcus de firmas terra sue de Golyn, dated epud Edinburgh, 18th April, 1249* (excerps from the Chartalary of Glasgow Lawyers Library), which is ratified by King Alexander III., the 4th June, and 29th year of his reign.

He is succeeded by Sir Alexander de Vallibus, Miletus, who exchanges the annuity of the Lands of Golyn, given to the Metropolitan Church of Glasgow by his father, for the same ten marks to be up-lifted out of his mill of Haddington; the deed bears date Glasgow, 3 trs. Callandis December, 1267. He was succeeded by another,

Johannes de Vallibus, Dominus de Dirleton, who ratifies and confirms to the Church at Glasgow, the deed of Sir John, his grandfather, dated Glasgow, 8th February, 1305.

The family of Vans or de Vallibus, of Dirleton, flourished down in the male line till the time of Robert II., that it come to terminate in an heir female, who was married to Sir John Haliburton, &c.

This Sir John Haliburton, of Dirleton, by the heir-general of the family of the Vans, of Dirleton aforesaid, had a son, Sir Walter Haliburton, of Dirleton, who succeeded his uncle in the Estate and Barony of Haliburton, and is upon that designed in several authentic deeds still extant,† *Walterus de Haliburton, Dominus ejusdem & de Dirleton*.

The only remaining heirs male of the ancient family of the Vans's of Dirleton, are the Vans's of Barnbarroch, in the County of Wigton, who carry the bend for their arms, the principal figure of the Coat of Arms of the Vans's, and charge the bend with a mollet, intimating they were a younger son of the house of Dirleton, but now since they represent the principal family, by the rules and maxims that are laid down in heraldry, they may strike out the mollet, the brotherly difference, and wear and carry the bend simple, as they have done for some centuries.

The original ancestor of the Vans's of Barnbarroch, who was a younger son of the

* The Lochlin branch ended in females about the year 1600; and about the same period, and in the same year ended the Vauses of Manie, in Aberdeenshire, a branch certainly connected with the Barnbarroch family but how, does not appear.

† Writs in the hands of the Earl of Buchan.

Vans's, of Dirleton, got the Lands of Barnbarroch from the Earls of Douglas, while they had the Lordship of Galloway, which might be soon after that; Sir Archibald Douglas got that great lordship in the reign of Robert II.

Although the Vans's of Barnbarroch had long been vassals to the Earls of Douglas, yet, what with the feuds that were common in the early times, what by other accidents that have befallen the archievs of other ancient families, as well as this of the Vans's of Barnbarroch, they have no charter in their custody preceding the reign of James II., for then they have a charter, granted by Wilhelmus, Count de Douglas, to Robert Vans, de terra de Barnglass and Barnbarroch, and many other lands, dated 26th January, 1457,* which charter is ratified and confirmed by a charter under the Great Seal, dated 13th August, same year.

But though the family of Barnbarroch, have no older charter now in their custody, yet 'tis plain and evident that the Vans's of this house had long subsisted before that, for a younger brother of the family, Mr. George Vans, Dean of Glasgow, was Secretary of State to James II."†

To proceed with our history of the family, John Vaux or Vans, the first John of Barnbarroch was succeeded by his eldest son,

Robert, who married Lady Euphemia Graham, of the Menteith family, who survived him and became the wife of Sir William Stewart, the ancestor of the Earls of Galloway. He got a charter confirming to him the lands of Barnglass and Barnbarroch, this was in 1451, and in 1453 the same was renewed and confirmed by the Crown. In this renewal the Earl of Douglas, Lord of Galloway, styles Robert "*Delecto consanguino nostro*" and it is believed these words were used because the Earl had married "the fair maid of Galloway, who was the daughter of Archibald, fifth Earl of Douglas, his second wife, Lady Euphemia Graham, of the house of Strathearn, who afterwards married James, first Lord Hamilton, and was cousin to her namesake, married to Robert Vans.

The younger sons of John Vans, of Barnbarroch, (brothers to Robert,) were Thomas, Ambassador to England, in 1457, Dean of Glasgow, Secretary to the King, and Keeper of the Privy Seal, (See Chartulary of Moray,) George Bishop of Galloway, Dean of the Chapel Royal of Stirling, and one of the conservators of the peace with England, concluded at Aytoun, 30th September, 1498, (See Rymer's Faed, Vol. xii., p. 674), and Patrick, of Whitehorn. Robert was succeeded by

Blanse Vans, of Barnbarroch, his eldest son, who married Elizabeth, daughter and heiress of Sir John Shaw, of Haillie, a Privy Counsellor, and Ambassador from Scotland to Denmark.

There is a Charter by James II. to Blanse Vans, son and heir-apparent to Robert Vans of Barnbarroch, of the lands of Barnglass and Barnbarroch, &c., in the resignation

* Charter in the Charter-chest of the family.

† Lives of Officers of State.

of his father. The lands are provided to the heirs-male of Blanse nomination, and failing these, to several other collateral heirs male, carrying the name of Vans. The charter is dated, Kirkcudbright, 8th March, 1458.* This was when the sovereign came to have the Lordship of Galloway in the forfeiture of the Earls of Galloway. He was succeeded by his eldest son,

Patrick Vans, who had a Charter of Conjunct infestment to himself, and Margaret Kenedy, his spouse (daughter of John, Lord Kenedy, one of the Regents of Scotland, and grandson of the Princess Mary, daughter of King Robert III., by Elizabeth, daughter of Alexander, Lord Montgomerie, ancestor of the Earls of Eglinton), of several lands which he held of the Crown in 1498.†

According to Playfair, Blanse had a daughter, married to John de Carnegie, of Kinnaird, ancestor of the Earl of Southesk, and who was killed at the battle of Flodden-field, in 1513. The successor of Patrick Vans, of Barnbarroch, is variously stated, one allegation is that it was his only son, Alexander, that succeeded him, and who is stated, "to have resigned the lands of Kirkwonask, in favor of Mr. Patrick Vans of Westraw, as from the instrument in the resignation, still extant, dated 11th June, 1508," and for confirmation of this, reference is made to the "Writ in the Archives of the family." According to this account, Alexander was succeeded by

"John Vans, of Barnbarroch, his son and heir, who had a grant by charter, from Patrick Vans of Whitehall, of the lands of Dunjargun, dated 4th August, 1535, which is confirmed by a charter, under the the Great Seal of James V., dated 5th February, 1537. He married (historical and genealogical account of the family of Cassilis) Janet Kenedy, daughter of the Earl of Cassilis, and had Alexander, his successor, and Patrick, his brother, who succeeded to the estate.

This Alexander Vans married Euphemia, daughter of Sir John Dunbar, of Mochrum, but hedying without issue male, was succeeded by his brother and heir male, Patrick Vans."

Thus much for Playfair's account of the successors of Patrick Vans, son of Blanse, and the authorities to which he refers in support thereof; but it is curious to observe that a different account is given in a "Short Account of the family of de Vaux, Vaus, or Vans, (*latine de Vallibus*) of Barnbarroch," drawn up, it is believed, by the last (not the present) Laird of Barnbarroch, or his predecessor, and printed subsequently to 1825, but bearing no date; we copy from the pamphlet in our possession, which we owe to the favour and politeness of that distinguished genealogist, Sir Bernard Burke, Ulster King at Arms, who has taken considerable interest in our investigations, and most kindly favoured us from time to time with valuable suggestions, for which we beg, in this place, to return our grateful acknowledgments.

* Charter in the Charter Chest of the family.

† Charter under the Great Seal in the Records.

This pamphlet, the production of the Barnbarroch family, states the successor of Patrick, the son of Blaize, (Blanse) to have been John his son, by Margaret, daughter of Lord Kennedy, and that he married Janet, daughter and heiress of Sir Simon McCulloch, of Myretoun, chief of the name, Keeper of the Palace of Linlithgow, and a Privy Councillor, by M——, daughter of Gordon, of Lochinvar, ancestor to the Viscounts Kenmare. This marriage brought into the family the hereditary Coronorship, or Crownership of Wigtonshire.* And Sir John having been killed in 1547, at the battle of Pinkie, or Pinkescleugh, he was succeeded by his son,

Alexander, who married first Lady Janet, daughter of David, first Earl of Cassilis, by Agnes, daughter of William, Lord Borthwick, and secondly, Euphemia, daughter and co-heiress of Sir John Dunbar, of Mochrum, by Elizabeth, daughter of Mungo Muir, of Rowallan, and having no issue male, he was succeeded, in 1568, by his brother,

Patrick, who married first Elizabeth, daughter of Sir Hugh Kenedy, of Girvan Mains, by Lady Jane Stewart, daughter of the second Earl of Athol, and secondly, Lady Catherine, daughter of Gilbert, third Earl of Cassilis, Lord High Treasurer of Scotland, by Margaret, daughter of Kenedy of Bargenya.

Lady Catherine was widow of Sir William Wallace, of Craigie, and after Sir Patrick's death, married thirdly, Sir William McLellan, of Auchlean, Tutor of Bomby; Sir Patrick was of the Privy Council, a Judge, Ambassador to Denmark, and one of the Commissioners appointed to govern the kingdom during the Royal absence.

To shew at a glance, the discrepancies in the genealogy of these two accounts, we will place the pedigrees in juxta position :—

Patrick, son of Blanse, succeeded by his son, Alexander, who was succeeded by his son, John, who was succeeded by his son, Alexander, who was succeeded by his brother Patrick.	Patrick, son of Blaize, succeeded by his son, John, who was succeeded by his son, Alexander, who was succeeded by his brother Patrick.
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The discrepancy, therefore, is this, Playfair supplies an Alexander, whose existence the other account ignores, and we confess to inability to decide whether it is the first that exceeds, or the second account that falls short of the truth; there are other striking discrepancies that deserve and demand a passing notice. The first statement alleges that John Vans married Janet Kenedy, daughter of the Earl of Cassilis, by whom he had Alexander, his successor, and Patrick, his brother, and that Alexander married Euphemia, daughter of Sir John Dunbar, of Mochrum; whereas the account printed by the Barnbarroch family, states that John married Janet, daughter and heiress of Sir Simon

* The Crowner of each County or District, commanded the Troops raised in it, and attached all those guilty of breaches of the King's peace. See Dr. Jameison's Dictionary.

M'Culloch, of Myretoun, and that it was his son, Alexander, that married Lady Janet Kenedy for his first wife, and for his second, Euphemia, daughter of Sir John Dunbar, so that both accounts assign this latter lady as Alexander's wife.

Again, the Barnbarroch family account, singularly enough, furnishes a most meagre one of Patrick Vans, the brother and successor of Alexander, as our quotation shews ; whereas he was a personage of great importance in his time, and bulked largely in the public eye—he is termed a gentleman of reputation for parts and integrity, and it is stated that “during the heat of the civil war, he was solicited with the greatest earnestness by the contending parties, and both the Queen herself (Mary Queen of Scots) and the Regents who supported the young King, wrote him letters of solicitation to come over to their side, judging it of no small consequence to which of the parties he joined and attached himself. However, he sided with the King's party, and was thereupon named one of the Privy Council and Exchequer, and one of the Senators of the College of Justice, in 1582.” “In 1587 he was joined in commission with Mr. Peter Young, of Seton, in an Embassy to Denmark, where he discharged his negociation with honour and success.

Upon his return, he made the first proposal to the King, of the Princess of Denmark as a proper spouse for His Majesty ; and when the King went in person to Denmark, to espouse the Princess, he had the honour to accompany His Majesty to Upsal, where the marriage was happily solemnised, at which time he got a charter of the estate in life-rent, and the patronage of the Churches of Wigton, Colmonell, and Kirkowan, and to John Vans, his son and apparent heir in fee, dated at Upsal, the last of November, 1589, which is confirmed by the Scots Parliament, and in the preamble to the charter, Sir Patrick's great merit and services are very honourably set forth. Sir Patrick Vans, by his second wife, Lady Catherine Kenedy, had a son, Sir John Vans, of Barnbarroch, who succeeded him. He was of the Privy Chamber to King James VI., and being in a good degree of favour with that prince, had grant of the estates of Longcastle, in County Donegall, Ireland, of considerable value, and upon that, in his father's lifetime, he was designated by the title of Sir John Vans, of Longcastle, Knight ; of these facts no mention is made in the “Short Account” printed by a member of the Barnbarroch family, to which we have already referred, and from which we have quoted. We here subjoin the whole account of this personage, furnished by the pamphlet in question.

“Sir Patrick was succeeded in 1597 by John, his son by the second marriage, who had to wife Margaret, daughter to Euchtred Macdowall, of Garthland, by Margaret, daughter to Henry Stewart, first Lord Methven. Lord Methven was High Chancellor and Treasurer of Scotland, and third husband of Margaret of England, the widow of James IV. ; but by her, Lord Methven had no surviving issue—his children were by Lady Janet Stewart, above mentioned, daughter of John, second Earl of Athol.

✱ See *Nisbet's System of Heraldry*

When not of age, Sir John was appointed Commendator of the famous Abbey of Cressrag-nel, which a few years before had been the scene of those cruelties (mentioned in Pitcairn's History of the Kenedy's) from which Sir Walter Scott has sketched his torturing the Jew in *Ivanhoe*. See Signature by James VI., 1587. Sir John was of the Privy Council, and a Gentleman of the Privy Chamber, and was succeeded in 1642, by his son Patrick."

Our investigations into the genealogy and history of the Vans family, has disclosed such facts and fair inferences, as force upon us the strong conviction that this Patrick, the successor of Sir John Vans, of Barnbarroch, was not the eldest son, nor even the eldest surviving son of Sir John, although we are free to admit that by an act of his own, probably, however that act may have been forced upon him, he (the presumed eldest son) became as dead to his family, and possibly enough may have been believed to be so in fact, both by his father and brother; but more of this hereafter, when we will have occasion again to recur to this interesting subject in its proper time and place.

Sir Patrick Vans, of Barnbarroch, we have seen succeeded his father, Sir John. He married Grizel, daughter of John Johnston of that ilk, then Lord Hartfield (ancestor of the Marquisses of Annandale), Warder of the Western Marches, and Lord Justice General of Scotland, by Margaret, daughter of Sir Walter Scott, of Buccleugh, ancestor of the Dukes of Buccleugh, by whom he had John, his son and heir apparent, in whose favour Sir John, his grandfather, assigns the fee of his whole estate, dated 30th January, 1640.

The same Sir Patrick Vans, of Barnbarroch, provides his second son, Alexander, in the lands of Barguhanny by his charter, dated 15th February, 1640. He was succeeded by his son,

John, who married Grizel, daughter of Sir John M'Culloch, of Myretoun.

The family pamphlet states he dissipated the greater part of the estates.

He died without issue male, and in 1696 was succeeded by his brother,

Captain Alexander Vans, who married Margaret, daughter of Sir William Maxwell, of Moureith, by Agnes, daughter of Sir John M'Culloch, of Myretoun.

It is interesting here to notice the position assumed by Captain Alexander Vans, of Barguhanny, afterwards of Barnbarroch, and his wife Margaret Maxwell, during the time of the religious persecutions which prevailed in Scotland, about the middle or latter part of the 17th century, and the annoyance to which they and their domestics were subjected by the ruling powers of that day.

We are indebted to the Rev. Clergyman of the parish of Kirkowan, for the subjoined notices as furnished by him for the "Statistical Account of Scotland."

"Alexander Vaux (so printed, not Vans or Vaus) of Barwhinnie, brother german to John Vaux, of Barnbarroch, and Margaret Maxwell his lady (who afterwards became laird and lady of Barnbarroch,) from 1666 to 1689—the time of the late happy revolution were

harassed and processed and fined, though there was nothing could be laid to their charge, but that they would not comply with the times, and did resett godly people and ministers." Again "Margaret Maxwell, Servatrix to Alexander Vaux, of Barwhinnie, was imprisoned at Wigton, about 1685, and scourged three several times by the common hangman, and afterwards carried prisoner to Glasgow, in order to banishment." Captain Alexander Vans was succeeded by his son.

Colonel Patrick Vans, of Barnbarroch, who married first Jean, daughter of Sir James Campbell, of Lawers, (a cadet of the family of Argyle,) and niece of John, second Duke of Argyle, by whom he had Patrick Vans, Esq., his eldest son, who died without issue, and a daughter Agnes, who was married to James Brown, of Carsluth, Esq.

The Colonel married secondly Margaret, daughter of Patrick Macdowall of Freugh.

The Macdowall's of Freugh, became Earls of Dumfries, and the title is now enjoyed by the Marquis of Bute, in right of a late Marchioness of Bute, who was the daughter and heiress of the last Earl Dumfries.

We have seen that John Vans, of Barnbarroch, uncle to Colonel Patrick, dissipated the greater part of the estates, and an accumulation of debts forced the Colonel to sell every thing but the Barony of Barnbarroch. He was Member for Wigtonshire, in the first Parliament after the Union with England, and died suddenly in 1733, owing to the breaking out of a wound he received at the battle of Almanza. The Colonel was succeeded by his son,

John Vans, a gentleman of much ability and integrity, who led a country life, and was remarkable for the influence which he acquired by the superiority of his talents and the urbanity of his manners, and whose memory was long cherished in Wigton and neighbouring counties, not only for his philanthropy, but for the unwearied attention which he paid to the agriculture and general improvement of the country.

He married his cousin german, Margaret, daughter and sole heiress of Robert Agnew, free Baron of Sheuchan and Largliddesdale, by another daughter of the family of Macdowall. This Robert Agnew, was fifth in descent from Patrick, second son of Sir Patrick Agnew, of Lochnaw, bart., Hereditary High Sheriff of Wigtonshire; by her he had issue, first his heir, second, Patrick, a captain in the army, who married his first cousin, Grace Hawthorn, and died in 1784, leaving one son, who died apparently without issue, third, John, originally in the civil service of the Honourable East India Company, afterwards a banker in London, and M.P. for the borough of Stockbridge, and who married Miss Stevens, daughter of Colonel Stevens, of Somersetshire, by whom he had one son, and two daughters, but whether they left any issue, we have not been able to ascertain.

John Vans and Margaret Agnew had also three daughters, Rebecca, Barbara, and Margaret; Rebecca married Robert Kenedy, of Pinmore, Esq., to whom she had issue; Barbara and Margaret died unmarried.

John, on his marriage to Margaret Agnew, assumed, under a mutual entail the name, and quartered the arms of Agnew, of Sheuchan, and dying in 1780, was succeeded by his eldest son,

Robert Vans Agnew, who married Frances, daughter of John Dunlop, of that ilk, by Frances his wife, only surviving child, and sole heiress of Sir Thomas Wallace, of Craigie, Bart.

By this marriage he had eight children, first, Robert, second, John, third, James, who was a midshipman in the Navy, and perished on board H.M.S. Queen Charlotte, burned near Leghorn, fourth, Patrick, and fifth, Henry Stewart; the daughters were first, Margaret, second, Frances, third, Anne, all these bear the name of Vans only, except the eldest son, who in addition assumes that of Agnew. Robert Vans Agnew was succeeded by his second son, John, who dying unmarried in 1825, was succeeded by his brother,

Colonel Patrick Vans Agnew, C.B.

Robert Vans Agnew, his son, the present representative of the family, succeeded the Colonel, and married a daughter of Sir David Hunter Blair, bart., by whom he has issue.

The modern mansion house of Barnbarroch is a very handsome edifice, reputed the most handsome in the County, is in the Parish of Kirkinner, a few miles from the County Town of Wigtown.

The Arms of Vans, of Barnbarroch are Argent a bend gules, Crest, a lion rampant, holding in his dexter paw a pair of ballances, and supported by two savages, with clubs in their hands, and wreathed about the middle with laurel. These Arms were cut on a stone, built with the old house of Barnbarroch, and in which also were the initials J.V., and E.K., and the date 1433.

The Charter Chest of the family preserved at Barnbarroch House is, we understand, rich in the evidences of the descent of the family. The Vans Agnews are very extensive landed proprietors in Wigtonshire. We find in the "Statistical Account of Scotland" published in the lifetime of the former proprietor, in the article, "Kirkinner Parish," states the Earl of Galloway possesses one half of the parish; the chief of the other proprietors are Colonel Vans Agnew, of Barnbarroch, &c., &c., and "the only modern building in the parish of any note is Barnbarroch House, the seat of Colonel Vans Agnew."

Article "Parish of Inch" "Col. Vans Agnew, of Sheuchane, is a non-resident proprietor."

Article "Stranraer," "Vans Agnew, of Sheuchane, owns property in this parish."

Article "Parish of Leswalt," "Colonel Vans Agnew, of Scheuchan, is one of the four principal proprietors in this parish,"

Article "Portpatrick Parish," "Colonel Vans Agnew is the second largest proprietor in this parish."

Article "Stoneykirk Parish," "Landowners, Patrick Maitland, Esq., of Freugh, Major Macdowall, of Logan, Vans Agnew, C.B., of Barnbarroch, Vans Hawthorn, of Garthland."

Also "Kirkcudbrightshire, Parish of Rerrick," "Patrick Vans Agnew, of Sheuchane, a principal proprietor."

We have now traced the genealogy and history of this most ancient and distinguished family, first in France; then have shewed their introduction into England as far back as 1066—of their descendants then becoming ennobled in three different branches, by as many separate titles, and of these families one after another becoming extinct for want of male heirs, so that for about two centuries the name Vaux has had no existence in England of which we have any knowledge, and although in the present generation the title which became last dormant, has been revived, the name has not. We have further shewed the origin of the family in Scotland, and furnished their history and genealogy in that portion of the three kingdoms, through successive ages and changes till the present time. It is to be regretted of a family so highly distinguished for so many centuries, which has from time to time supplied the State with so many belted Knights, Royal Commissioners, Bishops, Judges, Secretaries of State, Ambassadors, Members of Parliament, and formed so many alliances with the nobility of Scotland, such as the families of Argyle, Atholl, Buccleugh, Comyn, Ruthven, Hume, Panmure, Cassilis (now Ailsa), Annandale, Carnegie, Hepburn, &c., &c., that the notices to be found of any members of the family other than that of the elder sons or successors to the family estates are meagre in the extreme, and very frequently indeed no notice whatever is taken of younger children, or whether there were any; from this we suspect that younger sons have not been numerous, and we think with good reason, as notwithstanding the great antiquity, and the unbroken succession in the male line, the name Vans has never spread much in Scotland, in fact it is a scarce name even in that country, and is hardly to be met with but in Wigtonshire, or immediate neighbourhood, and even there we suspect it is far from rife.

Ourself a native of the West of Scotland (Glasgow), and resident in it between 30 and 40 years, never met with any individual of the name of Vans, except once we fell in with, in Glasgow, a person in humble life, who said he came from the South of Scotland, and that he had a brother resident at Bowling, eight miles from Glasgow. And although we had a tolerable acquaintance with the Western Counties of Scotland, Lanarkshire, Renfrewshire, Ayrshire, Buteshire, Dunbartonshire, Argyleshire, Stirlingshire, these, as we have said, are the only Vans's we ever met with or heard of, excepting such as are located in or about Wigtonshire. Nevertheless Vans, or rather Vance, is a very common name now-a-days, and latterly becoming exceedingly numerous, but to find these, we must do as a Scion of the House of Barnbarroch did some two and a half centuries ago or thereby, leave Scotland,

cross the Irish Channel, and traverse, if not in body, at least in mind, the Emerald Isle. The infusion of the Scottish blood of this member of the Barnbarroch family with Irish blood, has proved exceedingly germinating, scattering the name through many parts of fair Erin's Isle, and thence widely diffusing it throughout the vast Continent of America.

Be it our task now to indicate the person who, the time when, and the probable circumstances under which took place the advent of the first settler in Ireland of the name of Vans, and who we shall have no difficulty in shewing was of the House of Barnbarroch. Before proceeding to this, it is proper to remark, that an appeal to ancient documents reveals the fact that at least one member of the Vaux family, from England, had been in Ireland previously to this one, and had acquired some interest therein ; but there is not to be found any indication that such interest or connection was permanent, or that it resulted in the transmission of the name to any of the inhabitants of Ireland.

In an early part of our enquiries into the history and origin of the Vans (Vance) family in Ireland, it was our good fortune to fall in with a MS. drawn up by our maternal uncle, the late George Washington Vance, Esq., of Dublin, entitled "A Genealogical Account of the family of de Vaux or Vance." After telling of the family being of French origin, and of a de Vaux having accompanied William the Conqueror, and being progenitor of all the de Vaux or Vances of Great Britain, he announces that a member of the House of Barnbarroch fled to Ireland. This MS. "account" furnishes a considerable amount of valuable and most interesting information, but upon various points is evidently very confused, and in regard to dates and facts often wide of the truth, this is inseparable, from his account being in the main (at least from the earliest periods in Ireland) traditionary, and these mistakes, however grave they may sometimes be, do not materially detract from the one leading truth, that the Vances of Ireland have one common origin, proceeding from one member of the family of Vans, of Barnbarroch, and which, to a candid mind, could leave no reasonable doubt of the fact being so ; and when we present our readers with other traditionary accounts that have obtained in other branches of the family of Vance in Ireland, and with the result of our personal investigations conducted in various quarters, and from a great variety of generally authentic sources, they will see that assurance is doubly sure, and that unquestionably the Vances of Ireland (with possibly a few exceptions, if exceptions they be, and which will be noted in proper time and place) are descended from one Scottish settler and refugee, and through him from one of the most ancient and distinguished families, of whom there is any record in European and British genealogy.

We proceed to quote from "the genealogical account" of Mr. G. Washington Vance. He remarks—"We find the name of Mr. Vance,* of whom honourable mention is made in the 'Scots Worthies,' early in the 16th century."†

* The Spelling here at least is wrong, if the fact be right, in Scotland it has never been so spelt.

† Where Mr. G. W. Vance found this information we cannot tell. We failed to find the name among the "Scots Worthies."

"The first of the name who came from Scotland to Ireland was a Puritan Clergyman, (supposed to be the son of him mentioned among the Worthies) who came over to avoid persecution at home, he left two brothers behind him, one of whom was killed by the mosstroopers, the other produced an offspring but I believe only one son, and either that son, or his son after him adopted the name of Agnew, he was ancestor* of the present Sir Andrew Agnew, Bart., M.P., for Wigtonshire, and I suppose took the name through marrying an heiress, as he had large estates in Wigtonshire, and so ended the name of Vance in Scotland† for I never could learn that one of the name was born in, or bred there for the last century, with the exception of the few years I sojourned in it myself, and the few years a son of my uncle George might have lived in it, who was educated in Edinburgh, and whom I shall mention in his proper place.

"The Puritan Clergyman who first came over (about the year 1660) lived at Coleraine, he had one son named Lancelot, who was a physician and died of fatigue at the siege of Derry, in 1689. He married a daughter of Ashe Reiney, Esq., of the County of Derry, by whom he had three sons and two daughters."

"At the time the Protestants of the North armed themselves, and declared for King William, about 30,000 men, women, and children retired into Derry, out of which about 7,800, of them fit to bear arms, composed the garrison which sustained that memorable siege, being formed into regiments amongst themselves, each regiment took the name of the town or district they came from.

"The celebrated George Walker, a clergyman, who was Colonel of the Dungannon Regiment, being elected Commander of the whole, and Governor of the City, after the disgraceful flight of Lundy, the former Governor.

"Parker, who was appointed Colonel of the Coleraine Regiment, having also turned traitor, and fled over to the enemy early in the siege, the command of that Regiment devolved upon Dr. Vance, who as before stated, died of excessive fatigue during the plague that broke out among the besieged, having performed the double duties of a physician and a soldier. And here it may be necessary to explain that either through mistake or design in extracting the officers' names from the MS. list preserved in the Archives of Armagh, the name is called Lance instead of Vance, and thus it appears in print, but there never was a person or family of the name of Lance, known or heard of in the North of Ireland at that time or since.

"Of the three sons of Dr. Vance, the two younger ones accompanied him to Derry. The eldest, who was then married, and settled in the town of Coagh, did not retire to

* This is a great mistake. We have already shown the relationship of the Vans Agnews, who are descended from Patrick Agnew, second son of Sir Patrick Agnew, the first baronet. The Agnews of Lochnaw Castle, are of course descended from the eldest son.

† This is a grave mistake, as we have already made manifest.

Derry, his name was John, he was my great grandfather. The two daughters of Dr. Vance were married, one to Mr. Wright, a Presbyterian minister, the other to Mr. Johnson, of Gortolowery, near Cookstown."

"Of the two younger sons, one of them settled in the County of Donegal, and produced a family there, one of whose descendants became a Presbyterian minister of Belfast, and in addition to his own children, brought some others of his family and name into that town, where they are now pretty numerous."

Pausing at this stage of the "Account" of our uncle, Mr. G. Washington Vance, we proceed to shew what is truth therein, and what error, to elucidate and confirm the former, and guard against the latter, as far as our ability or opportunities for correction admit, and also to extend his account, and gather into one, branches of the family, of which he appears to have known nothing.

This account alleges the original of the family in Ireland was a refugee from Scotland, the Rev. Mr. Vance (no name), a Puritan clergyman, and fixes the period of flight "about 1660," settling at Coleraine.

The grand fact, here announced, is that the progenitor of the Vances of Ireland was a clergyman from Scotland; this fact we will prove beyond doubt, giving him a "local habitation and a name," but also disclosing a very serious error as to date, creed, and locality.

The first then of the family who settled in Ireland, and became progenitor of the name and widely-spread family of Vance in that kingdom, and more recently in America, we announce to have been of the Barnbarroch family of Vaux, Vauss, or Vans, in Wigtonshire, Scotland, and to have been the Rev. John Vauss, or Vans, A.M., but so far from being a Puritan clergyman, coming to Ireland about 1660, that is just about the period of his decease, after having been for about 45 years the Rector of Kilmacrenan, Donegal, and Diocese of Raphoe, the rev. gentleman having been appointed to that "cure of souls" in 1617. From certain circumstances that have come to light in our enquiries, we think it highly probable he was a refugee, as alleged by Mr. G. W. Vance, but it has not appeared, other than from his allegation, that the cause of his flight was religion; that indeed may have been an element, but to us it seems quite as likely that some family misunderstanding was the occasion. Be that as it may, he seems peacefully to have laboured in this far Northern spot of Ireland for the long space of time we have indicated, and to have died end of 1661, or beginning of 1662, his last will and testament, bearing date 22nd October, 1661, the date of Probate of same being 26th July, 1662. The testator signs his name Jo. Vauss, but in the Records of the Rolls, Dublin Castle, his name is printed Rev. John Vans, A.M. The will is sealed with the Barnbarroch Arms, in red wax, viz.: "Argent on a bend gules, 3 mollets." He appoints his sonne, William Vauss, his executor,

and gives legacies to his two grandsons, John and William Vauss, and Jane Vauss, his daughter, and David Cunningham, her husband, also to Rebecca and Marion Vauss, the former of whom he specially commits to the care of "my sonne David Cunningham, and Jane Vauss, my daughter, to bring her up in the fear and knowledge of God," thus indicating her to have been an orphan, and child of some other son of the testator. William is the only son made mention of in his will, but he must have had at least two besides, and we account for William only being named from the presumption that the others had already been amply provided for, and had removed to ~~the~~ other localities. We have Mr. Washington Vance attributing a son Lancelot, to the clergyman who founded the family of Vance in Ireland, and whom he represents as his only son, this is a mistake, the Rev. Gentleman's will shewing he had a son William, who had a son John, we have not been able elsewhere to meet with the name of Lancelot, and therefore suspect Mr. G. W. Vance is here in error, and that William was the name of the father of John Vance, of Coagh, this last however was certainly the grandson of the Rev. John Vans, of Kilmacrenan, whether his father's name was Lancelot or William, but besides, the rev. gentleman had a son, Patrick, whom, from circumstances come to our knowledge, we have no hesitation in announcing as his eldest son. The descendants of this last, and those of John Vance, the first of Coagh, seem for a long time wholly to have lost sight or knowledge of each other, but we have discovered that such of the former as use a crest, use the same that the latter always have done, namely a sheaf of wheat.

"The eldest son Patrick had been an officer in Cromwell's army, and on 10th July, 1668† was rewarded with a grant of land in the City and Liberties of Limerick, but strangely enough we find his name spelled in the grant Patrick Vantz, whereas his brother William who also had been in Cromwell's army, and who on 26th January, 1667,* received grants of lands in Liberties of Cork and Dublin, is designated William Vans, Ensign.

"It is somewhat curious to note the different ways which the name has been spelled and pronounced from time to time, in France it was de Vaux, their descendants in England and Scotland dropped the de, retaining the Vaux. After the title Lord Vaux, of Dirleton Castle, fell into abeyance, the Junior branch of the house settled at Barnbarroch, Wigtonshire, appear for a considerable length of time indiscriminately to have spelled their name Vaux, Vans and Vauss, and thus continued for a century or more, when the Vaux fell into total disuse, then it was usually Vaus, or Vans, and such it was at the period of Rev. John Vans's settlement in Ireland, and it would appear the Rev. gentleman had no fixedinvariablemode of spelling or pronouncing his name, for had he invariably spelled his name as he does in his last will and testament, and pronounced it according to the spelling Vauss, how could the spelling Vans ever have got into public record, which demands a pronunciation so different from the other, and there is a singular anomaly in the method of pronouncing the name as it has been invariably written by the Barnbarroch family, for over two centuries. According to the usage of the English language Vans ought to be pronounced Vanz, but in

† Records of the Rolls, Dublin Castle

* Records Custom House, Dublin

Scotland we believe they have always pronounced it as if spelled Vans, to this anomaly it is we attribute the fact that the descendants of the Rev. John Vans altered the spelling to suit the pronunciation, and for more than a century and a half the invariable spelling by them all throughout Ireland, as if by one consent has been Vance. The first time we have found the name spelled Vance, is in the will of a grandson of the Rev. John Vans, that of Patrick Vance, of Lifficulty, Donegal, dated 23rd December, 1697, this deed contains the names of his three brothers, John, David and James, to whom he leaves the care of his four children, (not named,) and in each instance the name is spelled Vance, and the attesting witnesses are, Thomas Vance, Alexander Vance, these last his cousins, we believe, and sons of Patrick Vantz. It is not a little remarkable that in the following year (1698), his widow Frances, is designated in administration bond to be found at Raphoe, Frances Vauss, or Vanss, (it was difficult from the writing to determine which,) but her deceased husband's name was spelled Patrick Vauss, and in the body of the bond is found the name, John Foster, John Vanss, but when the widow and John came to attest the instruments by their signatures they are quite distinct, Frances Vance, John Vance.

It may not be out of place here to give some extracts from "Indenture of chattels of the deceased" Patrick, "18 big cows, 22 year old bullocks, 2 five year old heifers, 6 year old heifers and four year olds, 7 calves, 34 sheep and lambs, 2 little mares, 2 year old colts, 1 year old filley," &c., &c.

Again, on the subject of spelling, we have yet another different from all the rest, it is to be found in a will executed by Jean Vauance, of Gortnaburn, parish of Kilmacrennan, in 1741, the spelling Vantz in Patrick's name in 1668, we regard as purely accidental, no other instance occurs of such spelling, we think it probable Patrick may always have spelled his name Vans, as his son Patrick, who subsequently became possessor of Forthill, County Longford, at one time did, thus we find an entry in Trinity College, Dublin, "26th May, 1702, Patrick Vans, pensioner, son of Patrick Vans, gent., aged 15, born County Donegal, educated at Longford, by Mr. Griffen," but in the very next year in an Indenture of date "18th June, 1703," "trustees of the estate of the late King James, sold part of same to Patrick Vance, of Forthill, gent., County Longford." * This entry in 1702 is the last time in Ireland we find the name spelled Vans."

Now, as to the descendants of the Rev. John Vans, we are soon furnished with certain indications of their increasing and spreading—at first this was chiefly confined to Donegal; we have already referred to Patrick, of Lifficulty living, dying, and leaving children here in the 17th* century. Early in the 18th we find them quite numerous in the west of Donegal,

* It may be proper here to observe that we have not learned anything definitely of the descendants of Patrick Vance of Lifficulty, as his will does not give the names of either of his children, and we unfortunately missed opportunity to visit the Vances, we understand to be located in that portion of Donegal, in which Lifficulty had been. But who was this Patrick, doubtless a grandson of Rev. John Vans, and either a younger son of William's, than his two sons, John and William, mentioned in their grandfather's will, or if there really were a Lancelot, he was likely his son, and in that case, the brother of John, of whom Mr. G. W. Vance makes mention as having been with his brother John for some time in Coagh after the siege of Derry, and then going to Donegal.

all in the Parish of Inver, thus we find George Vance, of Raneel, dying on or about 24th February, 1711-12, whose children named in his will are, John, Thomas, William, George, Alexander, Hugh, and daughter Jean, (singularly enough the Scotch way of spelling Jane,) the witnesses being Hugh Vance, James Vance. George Vance, of Roneel, was a man well to do in the world, as appears from the inventory of his chattels.

Again, we find James Vance, of Drumgorman, in the same parish, whose will is dated 19th December, 1737, he appoints "my son Patrick, my sole heir and executor of this my last will and testament," bequeaths "£40, to my daughter Sarah," also a bequest to Betty Vance, also "I bequeath to Alexander Vance, all that he owed me, or was indebted to me and I bequeath to Mr. Patrick Vance, minister, all that he was indebted to me."

Again, we find will of David Vance, of Drumgorman, dated 25th January, 1739, bequeaths "a horse to his brother Alexander, remainder equally between his two daughters and Thomas Bareilly's three children, he appoints "John Holmes, brother Thomas Vance, Patrick Vance, my executors."

This David doubtless was the previous James's brother, Alexander, mentioned in each will, the same person and brother to both, and Patrick, testator's nephew, the son and executor of James.

The next document we have in order of time, relating to these Vances is a "Bond to Bishop of Derry, for £500 (a large sum in those days) of date 20th November, 1743," by Alexander Vance, merchant, Londonderry, Administrator of David Vance, parish of Inver.

Next, we have of date 5th January, 1745, the will of Thomas Vance of the Point, parish of Inver, who "bequethes to his son, John Vance, among other things, "Bond due by Alexander Vance, of Londonderry," and bequests to his other three children (not named,) Hugh and Patrick Vance, executors. Patrick Vance administered 10th June, 1748.

This Thomas of the Point, was we presume the brother mentioned in David, of Drumgorman's will, and hence James and David, of Drumgorman, Alexander, of Derry, and Thomas, of the Point, were all brothers, so we presume had been George, of Raneel, if so five brothers in all.

We have now shewn the Vances to have been pretty numerous, to have been incontestibly connected with each other, and with the Rev. John Vans, aye, and we will add with the Vans's of Barnbarroch, for the very names that for centuries were constantly in use with this latter, Patrick, John, Alexander and Thomas, are the ones to be found in almost every family in question, we say look on this, and then on that. As far as we have gone, the Vances have been confined to the County Donegal.

Out of that county we have not been able to find any authentic account of any of them, being located during the 17th century, with the single exception of John Vance, of Coagh, as alleged by his great grandson, Mr. George Washington Vance, and it is quite certain that for several years before the close of that century, he was settled and flourishing at Coagh, County Tyrone.

The next authentic account to be found of a Vance out of Donegal, is from the Record in Trinity College, Dublin, in 1702, a copy of which we have already given ; but from the statement that Patrick Vans, junr., was educated at Longford, there can be little doubt that he and his father were living at Forthill, before the close of the previous century. We may here remark, that Patrick Vance, senr., of Forthill, we take to have been the eldest son of Patrick Vans (Vantz), eldest son of Rev. John Vans ; and Patrick Vans, junr., we take to be the "Patrick Vance, minister," mentioned in the will of James Vance, Drumgannan ; thus we have three Patricks in succession, grandfather, father, and son, and at a subsequent period we shall have occasion to refer to this.

As time speeds on, the Vances increase and extend ; soon we find William Vance, of Blenevoher, County Westmeath, not far from Patrick, of Forthill, and find Patrick transferring to him the interest in the estate which, in 1703, he purchased from the Trustees of Queen Anne, thus "Deed of lease and release from Patrick Vance, of Forthill, Esq., County Longford, to William Vance, of Blenevoher, gentleman, of the lands of Balloch, 134 acres for £500." Witnesses, James Vance, Forthill, Wm. West, Dublin.

This William we take to be brother to Patrick,* and if we are right, we announce him to be a seventh son of Patrick Vans (Vantz). We note this now, as we shall have occasion again to refer to it.

The next of the family we find proceeding out of Donegal, is named William, who was located at Aughavea, Ballyclug, Tyrone, whose will is dated 19th April, 1713 ; we expect he was George Vance, of Raneel's third son ; he left four sons, John, William, Adam, and James. His second son, William, succeeded his father, who was succeeded by his son, John Vance, of Aughavea. This last had two brothers, David, who went to America, and was said to have carried the colours at a battle under Washington, and William, who married Elizabeth Vance, daughter of Oliver Vance, senr., of Drumhirk, near Duungannon.

The eldest son, John, of Aughavea, had a son, David, who emigrated to America ; his wife bore him a son, born after his father's death, and named David. John's second son, William, and third, Adam, both went to America, and had families ; there were other two sons, John and James, who had no children, and four daughters, one of whom, Margaret, married Mr. William Brown, of Stewartstown, Tyrone, farmer and hotel keeper. He is dead many years ago, but his widow and their son, Samuel, carry on the business.

The next of the name we find any notice of, is Alexander Vance, of Killygavney, Monahan, who was located there in 1720, or earlier, whom we take to be fifth son of George Vance, of Raneel ; after him we have Archibald Vance, of Corlongrow, same county, who, in 1725, gave a lease to Hugh Cochran, on the marriage of the latter to his daughter, Jane Vance—we have no clue as to whose son he was, but should not wonder if he were an eighth son of Patrick Vans (Vantz).

* Senr. of Forthill

The next record we have of the name is that of James Vance, Ballymacombs, County Derry, but near County Tyrone, granting a lease to one Winton ; this James we take to have been the youngest son of the first William Vance, of Aughavea. Ballymacombs is said to have been a fine freehold property, but James the son and successor of the afore-said James, giving himself up to habits of dissipation, squandered his patrimony ; James had three brothers, Adam, William, and Joseph. He had a son James, who in consequence of his father's improvidence, and his own reduced circumstances, removed to a place, called Ballyforlea, Parish of Derrylorn, County Derry, near Cookstown, Tyrone ; he had also a brother, William, who lived at Suffolk, near Belfast, who had a large family—they are nearly all dead. This James had a son, Robert, who bitterly experienced the effects of his grandfather's folly, having been brought up in poverty, if not privation, who in search of better fortune, went to Scotland about the year 1839, and was contented for a time to obtain the most menial employment there. This person had the good sense to think that "poverty is no disgrace," if not the result of ones own crimes or folly, and cheerfully submitting to his lot, was thankful, aye, and most happy to earn his bread by the sweat of his brow in the humblest of employments. It was the singular fortune of the writer to fall in with this person shortly after he went to Scotland, and although finding him in the humble position we have indicated, we had no difficulty in perceiving that he had qualities of a sterling character, that fitted him under favourable circumstances, to rise in the social scale, in fact it was apparent he had the energy and integrity—the mind that was characteristic of many of the race from which he sprung.

Not long after we happened to meet him, trouble came over him in the loss of the rural employment which enabled him to eke out a subsistence, when having been advised to seek employment in an extensive manufacturing establishment, three or four miles from Glasgow, (our own native city), he called upon us, stating what he was in quest of. Fortunately we were well acquainted with the Manager of the Works in question, and supplied our friend with a letter of introduction and recommendation to him, which, after a little delay, resulted in an engagement to one of the humblest occupations at the Works ; but he soon showed, not like the majority of his countrymen, who proceed to England and Scotland, and in their employment seldom rise much above beasts of burden, that he had a mind, one too ever active and alive to what was passing around him. He soon mastered the routine of his employment, comprehended the why and the wherefore of the chemical and mechanical operations constantly before his view, thereby in an almost incredibly short space of time becoming an intelligent workman, competent to work side by side with the skilled artizan, aye even to lead and direct. He advanced step by step till he was asked to remove to a considerable distance, and undertake the management of one department in another establishment, he being deemed the most eligible person for the post that could be found.

About this time we lost sight of this party, and for many years knew nothing of him till lately he turned up to our view, in consequence of these our latest genealogical investigations, when we were startled, agreeably surprised to find him occupying in the Church, and in the world, a position of honour, usefulness, and considerable distinction ; we had indeed heard of him before, and had corresponded with him on this business, but never dreamed he was our old friend of some twenty previous years. We found him surrounded by a numerous offspring of most promising talent, living in comfort and respectability, occupying a prominent public position, conducting a Mercantile Journal on his own account, secretary to a public board, and a leading lay officer in a Methodist church. Such a man is an honour to his name and to his country—may he go on and prosper, his children follow in his footsteps, and eventually from their superior advantages to his own, add additional lustre to their already distinguished name.*

In the County Tyrone, in 1753, we find a Matthew Vance, farmer, Rugham. Matthew is a new name in the family, and we have no clue as to who were his immediate ancestors ; by this time, however, the name was spreading and becoming numerous ; another new name near this time, Arthur, we find in the City of Derry, a merchant, granting a valuable lease in 1766 ; we take this gentleman to have been the son and sole executor of Robert Vance, of Tullydish, Parish of Faun, County Donegal, whose will is dated 9th September, 1748, where he constitutes his son, Arthur, his executor. Arthur's "son and heir, Robert," succeeded him at Derry ; no further notice is to be found of this family, but they appear to have been highly respectable merchants, as in 1773, Robert grants a lease for £1327. This family, we presume, were descended from Patrick Vance, of Lifficulty, who died in 1697, and whose children, it will be recollected, were not designated by their names in his will, or Robert, of Tullydish, may have been a ninth son of Patrick, the eldest son of Rev. J. Vans.

The first of the family we have been able by public documents to discover, as being resident in the Irish Metropolis, is designated William Vance, Surgeon, in December, 1755. We next find him a party to a deed in 1762. In 1780, the name again occurs to an indented lease, for 200 years, thus "William Vance, Esq., of Dublin, and Mary Vance, or Bunbury," doubtless his wife. Whether this be the same William, or there were two we cannot tell, but we suppose he was (or they were) descended either from Patrick Vance, of Forthill, or William Vance, of Blenevoher ; if there were two Williams, the eldest in all likelihood was brother to Rev. Dr. Thomas Vance. About this time several of the Coagh Vances settled in Dublin, but of them presently.

In 1791 we find a deed of conveyance, in favour of Charles Vance, Merchant, Dublin

* This Mr. Robert Vance's children are, first David Nisbett, second McCarthy Keane, third Robert James, fourth Mary Anne, fifth Caroline, sixth Elizabeth, seventh Matilda Jane.

of premises he had purchased, and in 1799 we find the same a party to a lease of 190 acres, at Castlenock, County Dublin, for £1413 10s., but before this time, viz. 1756, and for some time previously to this, we have another of the family settled in Dublin, the Rev. Thomas Vance, L.L.D., a Presbyterian Clergyman, and head of a respectable seminary, but of him too hereafter. The Rev. Dr. Vance and Charles, are known to have been either cousins or the Doctor was Charles's uncle, if so, Charles was most likely son of William Vance, Surgeon, just referred to. Charles had two sisters. Rev. Dr. Vance also, had two sisters.

Having now noticed, at some length, a number of the descendants of the Rev. John Vans, of all of whom Mr. George Washington Vance seems to have known nothing, before alluding to others of them, of whom he was equally ignorant, we will take leave to recur to his "account." Mr. G. W. Vance, says "the Puritan clergyman who first came over about the year 1660, lived at Coleraine, he had a son named Lancelot, who was a physician and died at the siege of Derry, in 1689. He married a daughter of Ashe Reiney, Esq., of the County of Derry, by whom he had three sons and two daughters." * * * Of the three sons of Dr. Vance, the younger ones accompanied him to Derry, the eldest who was then married in the town of Coagh, County Tyrone, (bordering on County Derry,) did not retire to that city, his name was John, he was my great grandfather, and of him hereafter." * * * "Of the two younger sons one of them settled in the County Donegal, and produced a family there, one of whose descendants became Presbyterian minister of Belfast, and in addition to his own children, brought some others of his family and name into that town, where they are now pretty numerous."

In the above quotation it will be perceived there are several portions which from authentic sources we have already shewn are erroneous. For instance, the first of the family in Ireland, although a clergyman, was not a Puritan, that is a non-conformist; next 1660, was not the time of his coming to Ireland, having been settled at Kilmacrenan, for forty-three years previously; next he did not live at Coleraine, although his son Lancelot might have done, if indeed there was such a son.

Another mistake is apparent in the account. The family did not take its rise in County Antrim, (Coleraine,) and thence proceed to Donegal, for it was in Donegal they originated, and to which they were confined for a period of about three quarters of a century, when they began to spread out to Tyrone, and then elsewhere.

This account in question represents the Rev. gentleman to have had only one son, and that John, of Coagh was the eldest of his three sons, and if this were correct the eldest representative of this John, would also be the representative of John's grandfather, Rev. John Vans; but although ourself a descendant of this grandson, we frankly confess we have no doubt, as indeed we have already said that the Rev. gentleman had an elder son than William, mentioned in his will, or Lancelot, of Mr. Washington Vance's account,



General Andrew Jackson

President U S America

namely Patrick. To return to Mr. G. W. Vance's account. The other son lived some time after the siege of Derry with my grandfather, in Coagh, until he obtained a lease of some land in Castle Caulfield, where he resided, and produced a family. His descendants are settled principally about Castle Caulfield, the Lurg, and Dungannon, all in the County Tyrone, and these we call the Castle Caulfield branch. Of this branch is Andrew Vance, of Bridge Street, Dublin,* merchant, and George Vance, of London, a Surgeon of great repute, who are both likely to spread families in London and Dublin.

"I now return to the eldest son (my great grandfather) John, who had obtained a lease of a tract of land under the Act of Settlement, in the Townland of Coagh, upon part of which he built a distillery, brewery, and malthouses, with sundry dwellings, and may be said to be the founder of that Village. He married a daughter of — Williamson, of the County of Antrim, Esq., by whom he had issue four sons and three daughters. Of the daughters one married Humphrey Bell, Esq., of Bellmount, near Stewartstown, Tyrone, another married — Smith, of Dungannon, Esq., by whom she had David, an attorney and clerk to the County, and Thomas, who was a captain in the 83rd Regiment, and died in the West Indies, 1797.

The other married Andrew Jackson, of Maharafelt, who emigrated to America, and there gave birth to Andrew Jackson, the General, late President of the United States, of whom it was written, that 'he is the bravest soldier and wisest statesman that ever ancient or modern history recorded.'

"Of the four sons, John was first, James second, William third, and Andrew fourth.

In the year 1735 he surrendered the original lease of Coagh, and having divided the property, took out two separate leases for lives renewable, one in the name of John Vance, the elder (himself), the other in the name of John Vance the younger (his eldest son), and having died soon thereafter, demised his part of the property to his second son, James, my grandfather.

For his third son, William, he procured a freehold property in the Town of Antrim, and settled him there, whose sons, Ezekiel and William, have produced sons, and these we call the Antrim branch.

Andrew, the fourth son, emigrated to America, and there became the founder of a family; one of his sons was an officer in the American War, and killed in action, fighting under Washington. A descendant of his was Member of Congress for North Carolina in 1824, and appointed one of the Commissioners to settle the Boundary between Florida and South America, in the Spring of that year.

John, designated the younger, died in 1760, leaving one son, William, and one daughter, Margaret, who married Robert Brown, of Coagh, bleacher and merchant, by whom she had four daughters, but no son.

* John Vance, Esq., one of the M.P's. for Dublin, is a son of this gentleman, whose family repudiate the connection attributed by Mr. G. W. Vance with the Coagh Vances, a point we will discuss in proper time and place.

William married Miss Sherrard, of Dublin, who bore him no children. He died in 1788, leaving one illegitimate son, named William, who resides in Coagh (1841), and is the only one of the name that remains in it.*

I now return to my grandfather, James, whose eldest son, John (my father), became the head of the old stock or branch, after the death of his cousin, William, without lawful issue.

Said James having possessed his father's part of Coagh by devise, as before stated, married Miss Mary Hogg, daughter of Dr. Hogg, of Muff, Moneymore, County Derry, who had been a surgeon in a regiment in King William's army at the battle of the Boyne. By her he had issue five sons and three daughters, and died in Coagh, 1772.

Of the daughters, one married Mr. Hicks, an officer of Excise; another married Mr. Robert McElwaine, of Ballymilligan, a country gentleman, the third died a spinster.

Of the sons, John (my father) was first, Joseph second, James third, George fourth, William fifth.

John, the eldest son, became a merchant of Dublin, and married Miss Jane Brown,† daughter of James Brown, Esq., merchant of that city, by whom he had issue one son (myself), and eleven daughters. He died in Coagh in 1799. The eldest daughter was Frances,‡ the second, Mary, married Captain Stephen Burrowes, of the County of Longford, who had no issue. The third, Margaret,§ married Mr. George Balbirnie, an officer in a Scotch regiment, serving in Ireland during the Rebellion, end of 18th century, who subsequently settled in the City of Glasgow, and had a numerous offspring.

Another daughter married Mr. John Wheelan, mate of a Revenue cruiser, another, John Crawford, wine merchant, Dublin, another, Mr. McKinch, of Belfast, another, Henry Nugent Bell, of Bellmount, Esq., County Fermanagh, barrister of the English bar.|| The four others died unmarried.

* This William died in Coagh, March, 1855. His mother was a peasant girl, and a Roman Catholic: his father, in his will (1788) registered in Armagh Cathedral, made suitable provision for his "reputed son," on condition of his being reared a Protestant, which was the case. He was a man in humble life, but held in high respect, bearing through a long life a most excellent character. He well knew our own grandfather, the last John Vance, of Coagh, and said he was as handsome and gentlemanly a man as he ever saw. [W.B.]

† From the marriage settlement of John Vance and Jane Brown, of date 1770, enrolled in the Temple, Dublin, it is seen he got a handsome fortune by his wife. [W.B.]

‡ Frances Vance never married, she died at Ballymilligan, County Derry, May, 1848, in her 77th year, she was a stately-dignified gentlewoman, of a fine commanding presence, and a perfect lady—we knew her well. [W.B.]

§ Our mother, like her eldest sister, Frances, she was a very stately lady, endowed with superior mental, moral, and physical qualities. The sisters were considerably above the ordinary height, and were really handsome women [W.B.]

|| Mr. Bell became a very eminent genealogist, and acquired great distinction from the tact and talent displayed on behalf of the claimant for the dormant Huntingdon Peerage, which resulted in his client, Hans Francis Hastings, Esq., being called to the Upper House as Earl of Huntingdon. At the period of his premature disease, he was engaged as counsel for Mr. Lyndsay, an Irish gentleman, who was claimant for the dormant Scottish Earldom of Lyndsay and Crawford. (W.B.)

Of his son, George Washington Vance (myself), I am a bachelor as yet, and of course without issue.*

Joseph, the second son of James, of Coagh, was a distiller; he married a Miss Usher, of County Armagh, by whom he had four sons and two daughters, and died in Cookstown, in 1784.

Of his daughters, one married Mr. George Thompson, of Ballydawley, County Derry—the other married Mr. William McCarter, of Coagh, an attorney. Of his four sons, James, the eldest, was a merchant of Dublin, residing at Summerhill, who married Miss Shaw, of that city, by whom he had a numerous family of sons and daughters. William, the second, and George, the third son of Joseph were both bachelors.

Joseph, the fourth son, married Miss Thornill, of Dublin, and had several children.

James, the third son of James, of Coagh, was an Alderman of Dublin, married Miss Sherrard, of that city (sister to Miss Sherrard, who married his cousin William), was an active magistrate during the Rebellion of 1798 and 1803. Served the office of High Sheriff of Dublin in 1790, and of Lord Mayor in 1805-6. He died in 1808, leaving two daughters. One married Mountiford John Hay, Esq., Sheriff's Peon of the City of Dublin. The other married George O'Brien, Esq., solicitor, and both have issue.

George, the fourth son of James, of Coagh, went to the West Indies, and died at Sancta Cruix, in 1784. He married a Miss ——— of that Island, but born in Edinburgh, by whom he left issue, one son named James. His mother returning to Edinburgh, had been educated there, and he afterwards became an officer in the Dorset Militia.

William, the fifth son of James, of Coagh, was a merchant in Dublin, and married Miss Gormly, of same city, by whom he left issue at the time of his decease in 1801, three sons and three daughters. Of the daughters, two have died unmarried the other is living a spinster. Of the sons James, Richard and John. James was an eminent solicitor in Dublin, but since retired, and now living in Kingstown, had been twice married, and has no issue. Richard was an Ensign in the 29th Regiment, was killed at the battle of Albuera, in 1811 where he carried the colours of that Regiment, when it was surrounded and cut to pieces. John, the third son lives in Merrion Square, Dublin. He married Miss Beale, of Beale Grove, in the County of Wexford, and his issue living, three sons, William James, a Barrister, Richard and John Vance." Thus ends Mr. Washington Vance's account, and before proceeding further with the pedigree of other Vances, we propose to fill up what is wanting to complete that portion of them sketched by him.

We go back first to the Antrim Vances. All Mr. G. W. V. says of them is that John, the first of Coagh, "for his third son William, provided a freehold property in the town of Antrim, and settled him there, whose sons Ezekiel and William have produced families and these we call the Antrim branch."

* Mr. G. W. Vance died in Dublin, 1852, aged 70—he never married. [W.B.]

This William, the first of Antrim, married Elizabeth, daughter of—Wilkinson, Esq., a Quaker gentleman, of that neighbourhood, by whom he had one son only, named William born at Antrim, about 1740. This latter William, (and not his father, as Mr. G. W. Vance, erroneously states) was father to William Vance, born, 4th February, 1767, and Ezekiel Vance, born, 24th April, 1768. This last William, married Miss Eliza Jane Brown, his second cousin, daughter of Robert Brown, of Coagh, and Margaret Vance, he had issue three sons, William, James and John, and two daughters, Elizabeth and Margaret. William fourth of the name, in unbroken succession is a Builder in Antrim, married Sarah, daughter of William Hamilton, farmer, and thirty-six years parish clerk of Strabane, and Joanna Vance, daughter of Michael Vance, of Strabane.

William's brother James married Sarah Alexander, and John married in England, and both these younger brothers are resident in Nottingham, Elizabeth married Mr. Samuel Thompson, Hotel Keeper, Antrim, and Margaret married Mr. John Cussack, of Monahan, who emigrated to America. He died in New York. All these have families.

Ezekiel Vance had four sons, the three eldest, Henry, Robert and Ezekiel, emigrated to America, William, the youngest is a merchant in Antrim, and four daughters, Mary, Jane, Amariah and Margaret.

It is worthy of note respecting the two Messrs. William Vance, of Antrim, (the cousins we have just referred to) that they are the only persons we have ever met, who had an exact knowledge of the origin of the family in Great Britain. We have rarely met a Vance who did not express a distinct knowledge that the family of Ireland originally came from Scotland, but the Messrs. Vance, of Antrim, told us that the family was originally French, and all in Britain were descended from three brothers who came to England, with William the Conqueror—that their authority was the late William Vance, father of the one, and uncle of the other. This old gentleman we very well knew—remember first to have seen him about or before the year 1830, when he paid a visit to our parents in Glasgow, staying with us for two or three weeks. Our mother highly esteemed her second cousin, and he was a wondrous favorite with ourself, and we doubt not the rest of our brothers and father, we had subsequently the pleasure two or three times to visit him in Antrim, and found him exceedingly intelligent and entertaining. It is further worthy of note that his wife the daughter of Margaret Vance used to speak to her children of the Jacksons, of Tobermore and Fortwilliam, near Maharafelt, and that she was cousin to them, this is the family of whom General Andrew Jackson was a member, who was cousin german to our grandfather John, and to his brother Alderman James Vance, of course. We may here observe that owing to the disgraceful way in which Registrations had been attended to in Ireland, until some time after the union, we completely failed to obtain any register of Andrew Jackson's marriage to Miss Vance. This need not be wondered at, when we announce that no public

record is in existence of the birth or baptism of our mother, of her brother Mr. Washington Vance, or any of their ten sisters, these we have from private sources alone. Shortly subsequent to the marriage of Mr. Jackson and Miss Vance, they proceeded to America, where their celebrated son, the General and President of the United States was born.

We are not aware whether the first John Vance of Coagh's youngest son Andrew, accompanied his sister (Mrs. Jackson) to America, or whether he went alone, we presume this Andrew is the "pioneer" to whom reference is made in the following observation on "American Statesmen," we happened upon in a Newspaper paragraph,—“Governor Vance of Ohio had been a plain farmer through life, and entered that State as a pioneer, with an axe upon his shoulder, and very little in his pocket.”

Mr. John Vance, the last of Coagh, Tyrone, Mr. Washington Vance's father, and our own grandfather in early life established himself in the city of Dublin, as a Merchant. On his marriage in 1770, he received a considerable fortune by his wife, as set forth in marriage settlement, registered in Dublin. A few years subsequent to this event, with the purpose of proceeding to America, he disposed of all his property in Dublin, and with his wife and two children, started for County Tyrone, to arrange his property there. On their way thither, they sojourned at the house of his aunt, Mrs. David Gaussen, of Newry, daughter of Dr. Hogg, of Muff, when his wife, Mrs. Vance, gave birth to her third daughter, who was named Margaret after her grand aunt, in whose house she was born. This child was our mother, who was the only member of her family that was not born either in Dublin or Tyrone. At this very juncture the American War broke out, which occasioning an embargo being put on Vessels in Port, bound for the American Colonies, effectually frustrated Mr. Vance's purpose to emigrate.

The family had ever been distinguished for its attachment to the British Crown, and whether it was the annoyance he experienced at being prevented proceeding on the voyage he had prepared for or not, he seems to have become, for a time at least, disaffected, and to have taken much interest in the conflict which so long waged between the mother country and her colonies, sympathising doubtless in the successes and ultimate independence of the latter, and this manifested itself in the fact that the only son he ever had, except his first-born, which died an infant, he named after that great patriot, General George Washington. Be it remembered General Jackson was Mr. Vance's first cousin.

Mr. Washington Vance states his sister Margaret (our mother) was married to Mr. George Balbirnie. Miss Vance was reared an Episcopalian. Mr. Balbirnie was cadet of an ancient Scottish house, the Balbirlnies of Inverighty, Forfarshire, Scotland, and was reared a Presbyterian, of which religious communion, the Established Church of Scotland, his grandfather and great-grandfather were highly distinguished elders or lay officers, as were several of their connections besides. Mr. Balbirnie was himself an officer in a Scottish regiment,

serving in the North of Ireland during the time of the Irish Rebellion, end of last century—he was quartered in Coagh or neighbourhood, when he made the acquaintance of Miss Vance, to whom he was married, by Rev. Mr. McClelland, Presbyterian minister of Coagh, on 13th November, 1797.

Their first child was born at Larne, County Antrim, on 1st November, 1798, and was named after the colonel of his regiment, Robert Anstruther ; the second child, Jane, was born at Ballymena, County Antrim, in the year 1800, shortly after which Mr. Balbirnie's regiment returned to Scotland, where it was disbanded, when he settled in the City of Glasgow, where for upwards of forty years he carried on, with honour and success, the business of a dyer, a calling which had exercised the energies of his own father, Charles, his grandfather John, and his great-grandfather, Patrick Balbirnie.

This last was the eldest of the three sons of the last Balbirnie of Inverighty, who towards the end of the 17th century got embroiled in one of the civil wars which were so prevalent in Scotland about that time, in consequence of which their estates became confiscated to the crown.

Mr. and Mrs. Balbirnie, after settling in Glasgow, had the following children, third, Charles, who died in 1819 ; fourth, George, who in 1829 emigrated to Baltimore, was twice married, had no children, and died November, 1858 ; fifth, Margaret, died young ; sixth, John, who is an eminent hydropathic physician, an A.M. & M.D., and author of several professional works of great research and talent, he is married, and has several children alive, viz., John, Agnes, Hugh, Robert and Sarah

Seventh, William, author of this account, who married and had three children, Margaret Vance (de Vaux) only being alive, Ellen and Williamina died in November, 1844. Eighth and ninth, Arthur and Thomas, twins, the former in Sydney, Australia, married, but has no children. The latter, an architect, is in Baltimore, United States, had two daughters, the first deceased. The last child of Mr. and Mrs. Balbirnie was Matilda Margaret, who died at Glasgow in 1857, in which city Mrs. Balbirnie died, 5th April, 1846, in her 72nd year ; her husband died the 15th July following, only three months and ten days after herself. Mr. and Mrs. Balbirnie's eldest son, Robert Anstruther, married in 1824, Agnes, daughter of Mr. Archibald Hill, of Largs, Ayrshire, by whom he had issue born in Scotland, first, Robert Charles ; second, Margaret Vance ; third, Agnes ; fourth, Matilda ; fifth, Jessie ; sixth, John ; and after their going to Australia, seventh, Eliza ; and eighth, Jane.

Mr. Robert Charles Balbirnie, of Australia, is married, and has issue.

Mr. G. W. Vance has informed us the eldest son of Mr. Joseph Vance, of Cookstown, (second son of James of Coagh,) was James Vance, Esq., of Summer Hill, Dublin. This last had six sons and four daughters, of the daughters, Margaret, the eldest married Dr.

Brereton, an eminent physician, in Dublin, to whom she has a numerous family, another daughter Susannah, is unmarried, the other two died also unmarried. James, of Summerhill's three eldest sons, Joseph, William and Thomas Shaw, died unmarried, the fourth James Vance, Esq., of Suffolk Street, Dublin, medical practitioner, married Mary Alicia, eldest daughter of Robert Courtney, Esq., Solicitor, Dublin, and has issue, first, James, second, Robert Courtney, third, William John, fourth, Eliza Courtney, fifth, Joseph, died in infancy. The Rev. John George Vance, incumbent of a church in Manchester, is the fifth son of James, of Summerhill, whose youngest child is Richard Ephraim, who resides in Dublin, with his brother Dr. Vance.

The youngest son of Joseph Vance, of Cookstown, named also Joseph, at his death left a widow and large family, whose eldest son subsequently became a clerk at the Bank of Ireland, Dublin, but resigning that situation went to New Orleans, to which city his mother and rest of the family accompanied or followed him, but were there but a short time when the yellow fever seized upon them, and was fatal to mother and all the family, with one or two exceptions.

We have seen that one of Joseph of Cookstown's, daughters, married Mr. George Thompson, of Ballydawley. Mr. Thompson's eldest son, Mathew, emigrated to the United States many years ago; their second son, Joseph, married Miss Eliza Carson, but has no issue. The youngest son, William George, married Miss Ann C. Ellison, and has seven children, Mary Eliza, William John, Rosanna, Sarah Jane, Joseph, Nancy, George Matthew.

This last gentleman residing in the neighbourhood of Coagh, is a successful farmer and merchant, engaged in the linen trade—the staple trade of the flourishing Province of Ulster, and lately became possessor of a fine property in that locality, by purchase, in the “Landed (lately Encumbered) Estates Court.”

Their sister, Mary Jane, married Mr. James Eakin, of Drumconvis, Tyrone, and has three children, Mary, Isabella, and George.

We have seen that one of the daughters of Alderman James Vance, married Mountiford John Hay, Esq.; a daughter of theirs married Paul Ivy Sterling, Esq., barrister-at-law, now Judge of Ceylon, a daughter of whose, Pauline, is lately married to Colonel Maude, R.A., a Lucknow hero. The Alderman's other daughter, Mrs. O'Brien, had one daughter, married Rev. Mr. Ratcliffe, Rector of Donard, County Wicklow, another married Every Carmichael, Esq., of Kingstown; Mrs. O'Brien had also a son, James Vance O'Brien, solicitor, Dublin.

Having now filled up the pedigree of the descendants of the first John of Coagh, we return to other Vances. Mr. Washington Vance says “Of the two younger sons (of Dr. Lancelot Vance) one of them settled in County Donegal, and produced a family there, one of whose descendants became Presbyterian minister of Belfast.”

We have already shewn that the Vance family did not go from Coleraine or Coagh to

Donegal, because it was from Donegal itself the Vances spread to Tyrone and the other parts of Ireland, however a Presbyterian Clergyman did go to Belfast, and of course a descendant of the Donegal Vances, although this clergyman was not born in that County. This gentleman we announce to have been the Rev. Thomas Vance, who at a later period of his life, proceeded to Dublin, where he became head of a respectable seminary. In the year 1768, the Senate of the University of Glasgow conferred on him the degree of LL.D.

Be it ours now to give some account of the branch of which this Rev. Doctor was a distinguished member.

Our reference to the "Genealogical Account of the Vance family," prepared by Mr. G. Washington Vance, being now closed, we hope we have corrected his errors, cleared up some of his obscurities, and brought to light hosts of Vances, all sprung from the same progenitor, it becomes now our duty to announce, that in our enquiries we have discovered that other traditions obtain in different families regarding the origin and descent of the Vances in Ireland, and the position of those holding these traditions to this original and to the family in Scotland of which he was a member.

The first of these other family traditions we shall introduce to our readers notice, is that which obtains in the descendants of Rev. Dr. Thomas Vance. In the words of one of that family. "The family although all of Irish birth, are now with one exception, living either in England or Australia. The father of the elder branch of its present members, the late Mr. Thomas Vance, of Belfast, was repository of many traditions, touching the origin of the family; which, however as is abundantly evident had become sadly corrupted and obscured by time. He both lived and we believe died under the impression that he was heir to a dormant baronetcy; having always spoken of a Sir Patrick Vance, as being the party in the person of whom the same had fallen into abeyance. This clearly was a misconception, no baronet of the name having ever been created in the three Kingdoms, another tradition held by Mr. Vance, was that this Sir Patrick (!) was the father of ten sons, all of whom were present at the battle of the Boyne, or otherwise served under King William's banner. This tradition, however, was manifestly untenable insomuch as regards the existence at this epoch, of *any* Sir Patrick, (as you have shewn in your researches an insight into which you have kindly favoured us) is not without a foundation of truth, certainly two of the name were present upon that field and at a time when many of the nomination can be shewn to have been in the prime of life, and whom further enquiry might also prove to have been participators of the day. We can only gather from this, that the head of the family was probably at this time a Patrick.

It is well remembered by his children that Mr. Vance was a man who attached a great, perhaps an undue importance, to the distinction of birth and family; as also that it was the prevailing aspiration of his life to be enabled to realize such a competence as would

warrant him in attempting the recovery, as well of the title, as certain property to which he conceived himself to be heir. Papers he certainly was possessed of, giving some colour or clue to his pretensions ; as by his express instructions documents were destroyed immediately upon his decease. It was not his wish that expectations, so little then likely ever to be realized, which had but too much occupied his own mind, should be transmitted to yet another generation of his people.

It is the impression of his family that the Rev. Dr. Thomas Vance, their great grandfather, was the son of Patrick Vans, of Forthill, County Longford, or of his son, Patrick Vans, whom you discovered entered a student Trinity College, Dublin, in 1702." To the foregoing remarks, we add

That the Rev. John Vans, of Kilmacrennan, had a son, named Patrick, we have not the least doubt, true, his name does not occur in his father's will, but we have shown (page 28) that Patrick (spelled Vantz doubtless by mistake) was rewarded in 1668, by a grant of lands, which was for military services, can anyone doubt who was this Patrick's father, and viewed in the light of his father's origin ; but by the way, we are reminded we have not yet indicated who Rev. John Vans was ; be that now our task, and it may appear there is a propriety in doing this now rather than at an earlier period.

We are not in possession of the means to assert with absolute certainty who he was, but we feel fully convinced he was the son of the last Sir John Vans, of Barnbarroch, Wigtonshire, and brother of the last Sir Patrick Vans, of Barnbarroch, who is too the last of the house that has enjoyed a title, and keeping in view the traditions just referred to, and other circumstances to be noted, we are strongly of opinion that he was not only Sir John's son, but his eldest, and if so, his heir (refer back to page 21, line 6, &c).

In any of the accounts we have seen of the family in Scotland, there is no allusion to Sir John having any other son but his successor, Sir Patrick Vans, but no assumption can be made from this, as during many centuries it very rarely occurs that any mention is made of any younger children, the only ones usually mentioned being the eldest and successor, and where a second is mentioned, it is when such succeeds an elder brother from want of male issue, and if in the present instance, Rev. John Vans, and not Sir Patrick, was the elder, there had been some good and sufficient reason for concealing this fact—for ignoring the rev. gentleman's very existence. If he were a younger son, then as we have said, it was common to take no notice of them.

When any great fact or series of facts rest chiefly on tradition, errors as to date and other circumstances attending the facts or even the precise nature and bearings of the facts themselves—especially if the tradition goes back to a period somewhat remote, is necessarily to be expected, and if upon examination of the foundation upon which the superstructure of those traditions rest, evidence of a public or documentary nature be forthcoming, which

at once certify as to the main facts of these traditions or an approximation thereto, supplying dates, thus correcting errors in that point—should evidence be wanting to confirm other leading facts of the traditions, this does not necessarily invalidate those portion of the traditions, unless facts are produced that has that effect—whereas the being able to confirm and substantiate some leading points, furnishes strong presumptive evidence that others rest on equally good foundation, and warrants us in making reasonable deductions from the whole.

Now from the traditions reduced to writing by Mr. Washington Vance, the founder of the Vances of Ireland was a refugee clergyman, of the family of Vans, of Barnbarroch, further than that he did not go—was unable to furnish even his christian name—but we have proved the settlement of this clergyman (supplying his name) in the diocese of Raphoe, Donegal, shewing however that this took place nearly half a century earlier than the period assigned by the other—we have shewn too that he was of the family of Barnbarroch, his last will and testament to be found at the Temple, Dublin, proving this, sealed as it is with the Barnbarroch arms in red wax, viz. Argent on a bend gules three mollets.

These facts being thus incontestably established, the presumption is that another fact of the tradition is equally true, that he was a refugee in the north of Ireland “fled thither to avoid persecution at home.”

From the position in which this sentence is found in the M.S., with the allegation of his being a puritan clergyman, the inference to be made is the persecution was religious, and it is well known that throughout Scotland religious persecution greatly prevailed during the greater portion of the 17th century, and that in fact very many fled thence during these periods to the North of Ireland, infusing an element thereto, which has rendered Protestant Ulster so different from the other provinces of Ireland—but we have seen he was not a puritan clergyman, which in England would imply a non-conformist to Episcopal discipline and state subjection—neither was he of that sect which in Scotland might have been classed with the non-conformists (a term however we never find applied in that county) viz. the Covenanters, for he was an Episcopalian, but as such, he may have been subjected to fierce persecution. The great persecution did indeed arise from the Episcopacy, endeavouring to force itself upon the (Covenanting) Scotch, but doubtless the latter retaliated upon the former when opportunity offered, and such may have been the case here, possibly the persecution may have been less public than family, if indeed it were not purely family, of which we think there are strong indications. The period of the Rev. gentleman's coming to Ireland the early part of the 17th century was one in which contention and persecution was rampant throughout the South and West of Scotland, when the bloody Claverhouse and the brutal Grierson, of Lag, in this very county of Wigton, with their fierce dragoons committed many atrocities on the hunted Covenanters, these things were done at the instance of the abettors of the Episcopacy, and it may have been that the family of Barnbarroch had

adopted the faith and discipline of the Covenanters, as we have seen (page 21) Alexander Vans, Sir Patrick's second son, and ultimately laird of Barnbarroch did, whereas the Rev. John Vans having adopted or clung to Episcopacy, may have induced towards him sharp family persecution. Again it was not long anterior to this period, that the Reformation produced such marvellous effects in Scotland, that the vast majority of its population renounced the papacy. Two at least of the Vans's of Barnbarroch were Bishops, doubtless of Rome, for in their days there was no other church in the land, and the Vans's may have clung to the religion of their forefathers up to this time, and if so, as the papacy equally hated and perhaps feared the Episcopalians and the Covenanters, this member of the family John, would be sure to provoke the enmity of his family, and be subject to a persecution he was fain to be rid of by self-expatriation, and he never afterwards appears to have had any communication with his family, perhaps these did not, or affected not to know what became of him. We have undoubted authority for saying that a tradition obtains to this day in the family of Barnbarroch, to the effect that some two centuries ago a member of it suddenly disappeared, and it was never known what had become of him.

We have hinted a strong conviction that the Rev. John Vans was the eldest son of the last Sir John Vans; this conviction has been induced by the tradition held by the other branch of the Irish Vances, that their eldest sons were in direct line heirs to a dormant Scottish baronetcy, which, however, we have seen ought to have been rendered heirs of a Scottish knight.

It is particularly unfortunate that the documents, which were believed to have established the heirship, should now be lost to posterity, and that their destruction should have taken place so recently as the year 1827. Had these still been in existence, they might have thrown much light on the earlier Vances of Ireland, although they might have been utterly useless to have established heirship to Sir John or Sir Patrick Vans, to the exclusion of the present family of Barnbarroch, who have possessed the same undisputed considerably over two-hundred years; the last Sir John having died in 1642.

There is a curious historical fact which we think goes to indicate that the Rev. John Vans was the eldest son of Sir John. We have seen Sir John was in great favour with King James VI. (1st of England) who granted him an estate in County Donegal, of considerable value, called Longcastle, and from which during the lifetime of his father, Sir Patrick Vans of Barnbarroch, he was designated Sir John Vans of Longcastle. This very same estate not very long after, became escheated to the crown, not certainly from any misdeed of the recipient of the Royal bounty, nor any descendant of his, but solely from its possessor neglecting to do something that had been required in the grant—we did not learn what this was precisely. We apprehend the fact that his son John, was settled in this same County of Donegal, had in some way to do in preventing Sir John fulfilling his require-

This fact was made known to me by the celebrated antiquarian John D. Dillon Esq of Dublin through Sir. W. Burke's letter to me at home. N. 15.

ment, so that he had been content to make any sacrifice to avoid the risk of coming in contact with his son, or by the assertion of his rights in conformity with the grant, to awaken him to a sense of, or desire to assume, his proper position, as heir to his father. The Rev. gentleman was evidently quietly and peacefully exercising himself contentedly in the sacred duties of his rural rectory, and the father may have thought it prudent silently to lose his last—his Irish possessions, rather than risk evoking the dormant instincts of mayhaps a detested son, and thereby jeopardising the accession of a son after his own heart; some such considerations are the only ones we can suggest in solution of the extraordinary fact of a sane man letting slip out of his own and his family's hands, a valuable estate recently, honourably and gratuitously acquired from his sovereign.

Thus much for the Rev. John Vans, and his presumed position with the last Sir John Vans.

As to his eldest son Patrick, and the traditions held by one branch of the rev. gentleman's descendants, be it ours to join this branch and Patrick together, which we think we can satisfactorily accomplish.

Their tradition says that that their ancestor, Sir Patrick Vance, had ten sons, who were all at the battle of the Boyne, or served under King William's banner, this then can only refer to Patrick, the Rev. John Vans's son, with the grave mistake however of the prefix Sir. That Patrick had ten sons is indeed very probable, we think we have accounted for six or seven, probably eight or nine of them, but that these ten were all in King William's army is scarcely credible, and indeed must be regarded as a traditionary exaggeration.

Patrick Vance of Forthill, County Longford, Esq., (so designated in documents to which we have referred,) we regard as the eldest son of Patrick, the other sons we take to be George of Raneel, James and David of Drumgorman, Alexander of Derry, Thomas of the Point, William of Blenevoher, Westmeath, and probably Archibald of Corlongrove County Monahan, and Robert of Tullydish, Donegal, all of whom were contemporaries and alive after 1720, except George of Raneel, who died 1711-12, nothing is more probable than that all or nearly all of those were the first Patrick's sons, and we are warranted in regarding the tradition of his having ten sons as perfectly correct. Again we know that two of these gentlemen James and David of Drumgorman, were at the battle of the Boyne, the great-grandsons of James, Patrick and Alexander Vance, now of Drumgorman, know for certainty this fact, and it is quite likely that others of their brothers were there.

Another tradition there is that obtains in what we regard as the eldest branch of the Irish Vances, but to which reference is not made in the short statement we (at page 42) transcribed into this account of ours, made by a member of that branch, and it is that their ancestors for two or three generations were in regular succession, Patricks, yet they could not indicate two successive Patricks. Their great-grandfather, Rev. Dr. Thomas Vance being the farthest back they could go; the doctor had two daughters and a son, the

* See deed of transference to Spence's Gent., in Temple Dublin H. B.

Rev. Patrick Vance, who had two sons, Thomas Vance, of Belfast, merchant, and Rev. William Forde Vance; Thomas married a daughter of Alexander Orr, Esq., of Belfast, banker, by whom he had several children, the eldest of whom is Patrick Vance, merchant, Liverpool.

We have seen that Patrick Vans, of Forthill, had a son, Patrick, at T.C.D., and we have shewn it likely this son was the "Patrick Vance, minister," referred to in will of James Vance, of Drumgorman: Now we feel quite satisfied that Rev. Dr. Thomas Vance was son to this Patrick Vance, minister, or else was his brother, (most likely the former), and here we have again the satisfaction of revealing the truth of the tradition of three successive Patricks, by shewing that Dr. Thomas Vance's father, and grandfather and most probably great-grandfather were named Patrick, this last of course if he were the son, and not the brother of Rev. Patrick Vance, of T.C.D.

We have said the Rev. Patrick Vance, of Belfast, Dr. Thomas's son, left two sons, and that Thomas the eldest son's eldest son is Patrick, his second son was Thomas, a Barrister of the Inner Temple, who died at Pau in 1856,—the third, Alexander, is a Civil Engineer,—the fourth, Rev. James Vance, a clergyman of the established church, the second child is a daughter Arminella, and wife of William Bruce Joy, Esq., M.D., brother to Mr. Joy, Q.C., Dublin.

The Rev. Patrick's second son, Rev. William Forde Vance, is Rector of Cosely, Staffordshire, an aged gentleman. He has two sons, the Rev. George Vance and Mr. W. Forde Vance, both of Geelong, Australia, and two daughters. The Rev. George Vance is the fifth clergyman in regular unbroken succession—thus, Rev. Patrick, T.C.D., Rev. Dr. Thomas, Rev. Patrick, of Belfast, Rev. William Forde, and Rev. George Vance.

Of the members of this, which we esteem the eldest branch of the Vances of Ireland, descended from Rev. John Vans, A.M., whose names we have just given, we regret our inability to supply any particulars of the life or history of Rev. Dr. Thomas Vance, excepting that he was a Presbyterian clergyman, latterly minister of a Presbyterian congregation Dublin—in which city also he was head of a seminary. He received his diploma of L.L.D., from the University of Glasgow in 1768, was dead in 1779, at which time his son, the Rev. Patrick Vance filled his place at the Presbyterian church in Dublin, but it is not certain whether that or an earlier year was the date of his death; the Doctor had one or more brothers.

At a subsequent period the Rev. Patrick Vance received a call to a Presbyterian congregation in Belfast—which he accepted—and where he died at the early age of 45, beginning of January, 1800.

To make our readers acquainted with this Rev. gentleman, we cannot do better than give some extracts from a sermon preached in Belfast on 12th January, 1800, on the occasion of his death, by the Rev. Dr. Bruce. "On such occasions as the present it is usual to delineate in general terms the character of the deceased, but the honest character of every man is a detail of his life, and although our humble and peaceful profession is ill-calculated

to furnish materials for the historian, the life of every good man must afford matter of regret and edification to his friends.

“Your late lamented minister—my most faithful friend and coadjutor—whose untimely fate we are now assembled to deplore, was descended by both his parents from respectable Presbyterian divines of the Calvinistic persuasion, and educated under the care of his father Dr. Vance, who presided over a considerable seminary in the city of Dublin.

“He entered College at an early age—and he chiefly addicted himself to the study of theology.

“He seems also to have felt an early persuasion, that every parish minister should possess a competent knowledge of medicine, and next to theology, this was his favorite study, which greatly increased the sphere of his usefulness in the country in which he was first settled. After he had been licensed by the Southern association, he employed some time in superintending the education of an opulent family in the county of Tipperary, and preaching occasionally among the dissenters of Munster. In the first of these occupations he had an opportunity upon a trying occasion of displaying that integrity, generosity, and independence of mind for which he was ever after distinguished. As the circumstances attending this transaction rendered his situation less agreeable, he returned some time after to Dublin, where he preached in the Presbyterian pulpits in that city, and particularly in that which his father, who was then dead, had formerly filled. His public discourses and general conduct were so highly approved by the Southern Presbytery of Dublin, that about the beginning of 1779 they recommended him to the congregation of Summerhill, in the county of Meath, where he continued till he was called to this town. The same year in which he undertook a pastoral charge, he formed a matrimonial connexion, and commenced his duties as head of a family, in the discharge of which he was ever after a model to husbands and parents. In many of the Southern congregations a minister is exposed to temptations and trials to which he is not so liable in this part of Ireland. These are of such different kinds, that it requires great dignity and correctness of mind to overcome and escape them. Their vicinity to some overgrown family, from which the most considerable portion of their minister's income is derived, exposes their pastors to the temptations of luxury and servility. The small number of individuals of which their congregations are composed is an alurement to indolence and sloth, that many have been unable to resist, and their rude and convivial state of society is calculated to seduce men, fond of company, and deficient in dignity, into mean and sordid manners. To none of these did our late lamented friend incline, even for a moment. He not only maintained the dignity and independence of a minister and a gentleman among the illustrious family of the Rowleys, and the noble guests by whom their house was continually frequented; but, by the excellency of his life, discourses and devotions, attracted them to his meeting house; and without descending

from the strict propriety and correctness of his character, he conciliated the middling and inferior orders. By this line of conduct he contributed in no mean degree to raise and support the character of dissenters, both among persons of rank and power, and also among the inhabitants of that Catholic county, both of whom in general are strangely ignorant of our character and principles, a minister who supports this reputation should always be considered as an eminent friend of the dissenting interest. Since his settlement in this congregation you all know how well he supported that character which he uniformly maintained. As a private man he was distinguished for firmness, independence, and liberality, in his friendships he was warm and faithful, and he was exemplary in that line of duty in which he had the greatest number of competitors and coadjutors; attention to the charitable institutions of this town. In these generous and useful occupations he spent a great portion of his time, and by his exertions in them lost his life. He was every day becoming more and more important to society, and he has left us reason to regret, not only our actual loss but also the disappointment of our hopes. With respect to his ministerial offices, you all know better than I with what zeal and diligence he went from house to house, discharging the occasional duties of his congregation, and the whole town has, at different times been witness to the ability with which he discharged the more public duties of his office, and particularly to the eloquence with which he pleaded for the poor. From his first appearance in this town it seems to have been his chief ambition to excel as a preacher, although his former situation was so unfavourable to the exercise of his oratorical powers, he did not hide his talent or suffer it to rust, but by regular study and the practice of composing, he had kept himself in constant preparation to fill a more public station with ability and distinction. In his progressive improvements in the art of speaking, he had not I believe an equal, and his warmest admirers were often surprised as well as delighted at his exertions.

"If he had had an opportunity of taking leave of his people, he might safely have done it in the words of Paul to the elders of Ephesus.

"From this solemn parting he was prevented by the violence of his disease. It was caught in perambulating one of the districts of this town, and distributing tickets to the poor, to entitle them to soup and bread in proportion to their circumstances. The infection lurked some days in his veins, was fomented by a subsequent attendance at the public kitchen, and then broke out into a malignant fever. From his skill in physic, or a sensation attendant on that disease, he early foresaw that he was to die, and determined to fulfil the duties imposed upon him by that awful warning. While, as yet, his affectionate family were perfectly secure and free from apprehension, he astonished and confounded them by solemn exhortations upon their conduct after his decease. He then called for a person who had formerly been his faithful domestic, and who, on this occasion, deserves to be recorded, as she proved her-

self a strenuous and affectionate friend ; directed her to take care of the house, and thus relieve his afflicted family from all domestic cares ; and notwithstanding his rooted aversion to hasty burials, enjoined her to have his remains deposited in the ground as soon as possible after his departure, lest any of his family should suffer from the infectious nature of his disease. This sufficiently evinces the fortitude with which he contemplated the approach of death, and his anxiety to fulfil all righteousness. And when it was hinted that his apprehension of the fatal termination of his disease might have a tendency to hasten it, he answered in these memorable and characteristic words : ‘ Who told you that I was afraid of death ? I have taught men how to live, and I will teach them how to die.’ I saw him on the morning preceding his death ; his voice was stifled, inarticulate, and except a few words, unintelligible, but these indicated that his thoughts were employed upon the future conduct and condition of his family ; and by signs, he testified his satisfaction at their dutiful and affectionate attentions. Such was the use which he made of the short return of reason that he enjoyed before his dissolution. This was an afflicting event to the whole town, but more especially to his friends, to the poor, and above all, to his congregation, who enjoyed the benefit of his ministry, and were so much indebted for their present respectability to his indefatigable exertions,” &c., &c.

The Rev. Patrick Vance was twice married, first to Miss Jane Grace, of Rahenny, by whom he had Thomas Vance, and second, to Miss Forde, by whom he had the Rev. William Forde Vance, of Cosely, Staffordshire. The eldest son, Thomas, born in 1782, was an eminent merchant of Belfast, who in 1825 went to Mexico, where he died two years thereafter ; we cannot better introduce this gentleman to our reader’s acquaintance, than by giving a couple of newspaper extracts, having reference to him at the time of his departure for South America.

From the *Belfast Northern Whig*, 28th July, 1825.

“ THOMAS VANCE, ESQ.,

Mingled with our feelings of private and personal respect for the character of this most estimable individual, are feelings of deep regret for the loss which the community has sustained by the removal of one of its most enlightened and talented members to a distant part of the world. Mr. Vance might be said to possess auspices of hereditary claim to the respect and esteem of the Presbyterian population of Belfast. This claim he strengthened and confirmed by a life of active and honorable exertion. Of unobtrusive and unassuming habits, he combined with the energy of the merchant, the enquiry of the scholar, and the urbanity of the gentleman.”

Another Newspaper writes—

“ Embarked on Sunday last, on board the *Shamrock*, for Liverpool, Thomas Vance, Esq. and family, on their way to Mexico.

“ Previously to their departure, a deputation, consisting of the President and Vice-President of the Chamber of Commerce, and a number of the most respectable inhabitants of

this town (Belfast), waited upon Mr. Vance, and presented to him an address, with a piece of plate, on which was the following inscription :—

PRESENTED TO
THOMAS VANCE, ESQ.,
ON HIS DEPARTURE FOR MEXICO; AS A
MEMORIAL
OF THE ESTEEM IN WHICH HE IS HELD BY HIS
FELLOW-CITIZENS OF BELFAST,
FOR HIS EXEMPLARY CHARACTER AS A MERCHANT AND A GENTLEMAN.

The following is a copy of the Address :—

“TO THOMAS VANCE, ESQ.,

“SIR—Your intended removal from this your native town, is most deeply and sincerely regretted by your fellow-citizens.

“Although you depart with our best wishes, and with the highest prospects of success, we lament the loss of so honourable and enlightened a merchant, and so excellent a member of society.

“We trust that your establishment in the new world will promote the prosperity of your family ; as we have no doubt, that your abilities and integrity will tend to enhance the reputation of your native land.

“As a testimony of our affection and a memorial of our respect, we solicit your acceptance of a piece of plate, prepared for the occasion.

To which Mr. Vance returned the following reply :—

“Gentlemen—I feel quite unequal to express the emotions of my heart, on hearing these cordial and affectionate sentiments from my friends and fellow-citizens ; but while I gratefully acknowledge the high honour thus conferred upon me, I can feel no claim to your kind and flattering commendations, for although it may be, that in my progress through life I have endeavoured to imitate the excellent examples which I saw around me on every side, yet, if so, no peculiar praise is due in a community not less distinguished for the practice of every domestic virtue, than for integrity, honour, and liberality, which are its great and acknowledged characteristics,

“I will carry with me to the new world, early and impressive recollections of the disinterested generosity of my townsmen, now confirmed and increased by this invaluable proof of your public approbation.

“I will also have the gratifying conviction, that the same liberality of sentiment, in conjunction with enlightened views, spirited enterprise, and sound discretion, is guiding them with a rapid pace along the path that leads to great prosperity.

“The superb memorial of your favor and regard equally demands my gratitude and admiration ; and I assure you from my heart, that no change of circumstances, no lapse of time, nor any distance of place, however remote, will abate the warmth of my affection for my excellent fellow-citizens, or the earnestness of my wishes for the peace and happiness of my native land.



"To you, Gentlemen, who have so eminently honored me this day, I am under great and peculiar obligations."

The eldest son of Thomas Vance, of Belfast and Mexico, Patrick Vance, merchant, Liverpool, married first Frances Dixon, daughter of Rev. Edward Hall, A.M., of Liverpool by whom (who died in 1856) he has three children, Fanny Eliza, Thomas Arthur, and Arminella.

He married secondly, in 1858, Emmiline Mary, daughter of the late George Ethelstone Styau, Esq., of London, by whom he has one son, George Ethelstone.

Rev. P. Vance's second son, Rev. William Forde Vance is still alive, has been a man of some note, and not a little use in his day, has appeared in print as an author, at least in one volume of sermons, but such is his extreme modesty, and that of his family, as absolutely to forbid any notice of them, savouring the least of panegyric ; paying due respect to this feeling, we say no more of them.

We have intimated our decided conviction that this branch of the Vance's of Ireland, is the eldest, derived from the eldest successors of Patrick the eldest son of Rev. John Vans, and will now trace the descendants in other branches, from this Patrick, which we are enabled to do partly from the testimony of some of these descendants themselves, partly from that of an almost centenarian, a perfect chronicle of Vance lore, a Mr. Blaney, of Inver, Donegal, a distant relative of the lords Blaney, of Castleblaney, and partly from wills to which we have already referred.

George of Raneel, parish of Inver, Donegal, was, we doubt not, grandson to Rev. John Vance, and one of the ten sons of Patrick Vans. He was succeeded in Raneel, by his second son, Thomas, whose son, Hugh Vance, of Gortward, Doran, also in Inver, had two sons, first, Patrick, who emigrated to America unmarried ; second, Hugh, an officer of excise, and four daughters, married respectively to Messrs. McKee, McGonigal, O'Donnell, and Carscadden, and had families.

Hugh Vance, of the excise, had five sons, first John, who went to Baltimore, became a wealthy merchant, and was killed by his horse running off with him. He left two sons.

Hugh's second son, Patrick, also went to America, and had two daughters.

The third, James Vance, succeeded his father in Gortward ; fourth, Thomas, also went to Baltimore ; and fifth, Hugh, married Miss Carscadden, of Donegal, and went to Pittsburgh, U.S., where he died in three years, leaving three sons.

James Vance, of Gortward, Hugh's third son, had Hugh, the present possessor of Gortward, whom we had the pleasure to see, and by whom we were courteously entertained and lodged when visiting him, and his near neighbours and kinsmen, the Messrs. Vance, of Drumgorman. He married Miss E. Galbreath, daughter of Mr. Galbreath, coachbuilder, Donegal, and has young children.

James's second son, Thomas, married in Philadelphia, and has three children.

James was third, and four daughters, three of whom are in America, the other, Isabella, resides at Gortward, with her brother Hugh.

Mr. Hugh Vance is a farmer and extensive fish curer, for which he is admirably situated, his residence being close to the Donegal shore. This family could trace their pedigree up to their grandfather's-grandfather, Thomas of Raneel. Further they could not go, it was our happiness to enlighten them by making them acquainted with the will of George Thomas's father.

George of Raneel's third son William, we have already traced, (see page 31) to Aughavea, Tyrone,—and his fifth son Alexander, to Killigaveny, Monahan. (see foot of page 31)

David Vance of Drumgorman left only two daughters, so the name is lost in his posterity ; but James we have from his will, (page 30) left one son Patrick, who had three sons.

First, William—second, John—third, Alexander. William married but had no issue ; Alexander the youngest had two sons William, that died young ; and John who has three sons, Andrew, William, George, and two daughters.

John, the second son of Patrick Vance, Drumgorman, had three sons,—first, Patrick—second, Alexander—third, George.

Patrick John's eldest son, at present of Drumgorman, has had six sons and three daughters—first John, deceased.

Second Alexander who is married and has five children,—third Patrick married and has a son John—fourth James in Melbourne, Australia, married and has four children—fifth and sixth Robert and George, deceased. The three daughters are married and have families.

Alexander Vance, senior, the second son of John Vance, of Drumgorman, (brother to Mr. Patrick, sen.,) married Susan Vance, daughter of Alexander Vance, of Killymangle, parish of Drumholm, Donegall, who was son of Thomas Vance,* of the Point, and has issue—first, Israel, in California—second, John—third, Thomas—fourth, Alexander and two daughters.

We cannot quit those Vances without a remark. The *personnel* of the Messrs. Patrick and Alexander Vance, of Drumgorman, much struck us, they are about as fine specimens of the *genus h o m o* as we have looked upon—tall, handsome men, of fine noble appearance. Patrick is about eighty years of age, hale and hearty ; his brother Alexander, nearly seventy, is full of vigour, very intelligent, and communicative. Patrick we found very reserved, regarded us and our mission with manifest suspicion, would not (at first at least) be convinced that in our investigations we were not actuated by some sinister motives. He was

* We presume Mrs. Susan Vance's grandfather, Thomas of the Point, could not be he who died in 1745, but his son ; if so, she is great grand-daughter to the first Thomas of the Point, her husband is great grandson of James of Drumgorman, as we have shewn, brother to Thomas of the Point.

evidently puzzled to comprehend how otherwise we should undertake so troublesome, expensive, and lengthy a journey at such a season too, (latter part of March, 1860) when storms of wind, rain, and snow were the order of the day, unless we expected to realize something substantial by the affair, the more so when we assured him the undertaking had been a very serious one, in regard to money disbursements, to consumption of time, and to bodily and mental time and worry, with a very sorry prospect of indemnification for either. We dare say there was a lurking suspicion in the old gentleman's mind, that if there was anything likely to be made by the information we sought on family matters, he and he alone was the party legally entitled to such, from being the undoubted heir of old James Vance, of Drumgorman, his great grandfather, and possibly, for ought he knew, the legal representative of many generations before James as well.

We were not a little amused with the reserve and caution of the old gentleman, and in the house of his brother, Alexander, shared with this latter and his family, and Mr. Hugh Vance, of Gortward, a picquant bit of fun and hearty laugh at the expense of our cautious kinsman.

We had the pleasure to enjoy their company only a few hours of an afternoon and evening, but before we parted Mr. Patrick's icyness began to thaw, he seemed to regard ourself and mission with more favour than at first, and parted from us with the warmest adieus, and we did not doubt a little further acquaintance would have made us the best of friends; Mr. Alexander from the first was cordial, confiding, and communicative, and on our return home were greatly gratified to receive from him a most warm-hearted epistle.

We learned nothing of the descendants of Thomas Vance, of the Point, except what refers to his great grand-daughter, Susan Vance, wife of Mr. Alexander Vance, of Drumgorman, but we suspect his progeny has been pretty numerous.

A few miles from the Vance's of Drumgorman and Gortward, are the Vances of Dromedart.

We were prevented, much to our regret, by a violent snow-storm, visiting those, and have failed by letter to procure any information of them. The Vances of Inver, believed them to be related, but could not tell how, doubtless they are descendants of either George of Raneel, or Thomas of the Point, as must be the case with the Vances of Dunkinealy, on the Donegal Coast, in this neighbourhood, a family, who of late years, have altogether left that locality. A member of this family, the Rev. George Vance, Wesleyan minister, at present stationed at Coleraine, is a gentleman deservedly held in great esteem in that body, in which he occupies a somewhat distinguished position, we have for some years had the pleasure of his acquaintance, but being a younger son, and early away from his native county, was unable to supply us with any details regarding his ancestry, which we could turn to practical account.

Several other Vances is there scattered throughout Ireland, or lately were, whom we have been unable to connect with the original founder of the family in that country.

This arises first from our not having had opportunity of personal conference, and second from the parties in this predicament being unable to furnish us with any clue as to their ancestry, being generally ignorant of their progenitors beyond their father, and third the absence of sufficient documentary evidence relating to them. In this category are the Vance's of Corradreans ; Kilmore, County Armagh.

James Vance of Corradreans whose will is registered in Armagh, dated 21st April, 1784, left two sons, Samuel and Patrick. Samuel is a new name in the family. Patrick clearly indicates their propinquity, whose will is dated 28th June, 1793, which has a curious provision—after directing his goods and chattels to be sold by auction, he desires the proceeds to be equally divided between his three sisters, and a niece, and his brother Samuel, and sister Margaret to receive 1s. 1d. each. Patrick, we presume, did not transmit his name ; Samuel probably did, whom we find granted a lease in 1797, for £167, to one Fay, of Tandaragee.

Again there were the Vances of Sheagh, parish of Aughansa, Fermanagh. In 1788, there were at least two brothers John, and another designated Lanty, which is presumed to be a contraction or corruption of Lancelot, and if so affords some presumption that Mr. Washington Vance was right in stating the father of the first John of Coagh was named Lancelot. There was also a Lancelot Vance an officer of customs at one time in Liverpool.

In County Fermanagh we find there was so long since as 1735, William Vance of Drum, Mount-Awanacher, who we presume was either William Vance of Blenevoher or his son. He is party to a lease for the lives of Margaret, John, Elizabeth, and William Vance. Now, in 1755, we find (see page 33) William Vance, Surgeon, of Dublin, whom we take to be the William Vance in the lease referred to.

There are Vances we understand in the County of Sligo, these we are satisfied are connected with the Vances of Inver parish, Donegal. In the North of the County of Donegal too, not far from the City of Derry, are Vances, whom we regret we missed the opportunity to visit—their locality is not many miles from Kilmacrennan and from Raphoe, and are most likely the descendants of Patrick Vance, of Lifficulty, who died in 1697, leaving four children unnamed in will, (see page 29)

There is a respectable merchant in Derry, where he was born, considerably advanced in life, named James Vance. His father was John Vance of Derry, Stocking Manufacturer. Mr. Vance stated to us he had not had any uncle, and never could discover his grandfather's name ; yet, singularly enough he knew a good deal about several branches of the Vance family in different localities of Ireland. This gentleman asked us if in our peregrinations we had ever met with a Vance a Roman Catholic. On replying in the negative, he said neither had he, excepting in the City of Glasgow, where curiously enough he fell in with two Irishmen on his frequent business visits to that City, and after an interval of several

years; who were both Roman Catholics, and named Vance—they were in the lowest walks of life, one of them gave his name Oliver Vance, and from the enquiries Mr. James Vance made of them, he was sure they were the illegitimate sons of Vances by Roman Catholic women, in whose charge they had been left, and who of course brought them up in their own creed.

There is a highly respectable branch of the Vance family in Ireland whose pedigree it is likely will never be made out, viz. that of the Rev. Robert Vance, A.M., Rector of St. Catherine's, Dublin; and his brother Samuel Vance, Esq., Secretary of Chamber of Commerce, Belfast. The Rev. gentleman can give little information regarding his ancestors, and accounts to us for his and his brothers' ignorance from the fact that their grand-father was killed by a fall from his horse, leaving a very young family, of which of course their father was one. The name Samuel here suggests propinquity with Samuel Vance, of Corradreans, Armagh.

Then there is Mr. Clement Vance of Cork, draper, a most respectable gentleman, who was born in Ballymena, County Antrim, his father James Vance was paymaster of Westmeath Militia, who had other two sons, one born at Dundalk the other at Dover, and although Mr. Clement Vance be the eldest, is quite ignorant of his father's birth-place, or who were his ancestors, does not recollect ever to have heard his grand-father's christian name. This he attributes to his never having had any fixed place of residence during his early days, consequent on his father's profession, and coming in contact but little with his paternal relations. It is certainly presumable that as his father held a commission in the Westmeath Militia, he was connected with that County or neighbouring one of Longford, and was therefore likely to be descended from Patrick Vans of Forthill, or William Vans of Blenevoher.

Of Vances deceased, there were some of the name of very considerable consequence, of whom we have been perfectly unable to procure any information. Some twenty years ago or so, there lived in Dublin two brothers and a sister, James, Thomas, and Isabella Vance. We have conversed with a kinsman of ours in Dublin about them, who informed us he knew them well to see them, but never spoke to them, nor did he know whence they were, Sometime before their decease Trinity Church Dublin was consumed by fire. The day after the conflagration, one of the brothers waited on the Rev. John Gregg, of said Church, and tendered him £2000, to commence a Subscription for the purpose of rebuilding the sacred edifice, and at his or their death bequeathed to that Rev. gentleman in trust a large amount we believe about £14000, for the purpose of assisting in the building and endowment of district churches in neighbourhood of Dublin. The sister too, left cash or other property to the Wesleyan Missionary Society at her decease, which realizes for that institution a sum of from £90 to £100 per annum.

Again in Stillorgan Church burying ground, near Dublin, we have seen a tombstone bearing the following inscription,—

“Here lieth the remains of
ROBERT VANCE, ESQ.,
who departed this life 11th June, 1810,
Aged 63 years,
He was loved and esteemed by all his relations and friends,
for his eminent good qualities.”

The fact of this gentleman's interment at Stillorgan, where it is known the remains of Rev. Dr. Thomas Vance, and of his nephew or cousin Charles Vance, and his two sisters repose, suggest near relationship. Robert was likely to be the son of Charles, and we venture to hazard the conjecture that James, Thomas, and Isabella of Dublin were younger children of the same father. Or these three and possibly Robert Vance may have been the children of William Vance Esq., and Mary Bunbury. (see page 33) and in either case were near relatives of Rev. Patrick Vance, the grand-father of Patrick Vance Esq., of Liverpool, and his brothers.

We apprehend by this time we may have tired the patience of our reader; still we cannot yet take leave of our subject, it is our duty to take up a third tradition held by a Vance family in Ireland, which is diverse from the others. This last tradition is confined to the family of John Vance, Esq., M.P. for Dublin.

A brother of the member, Mr. William Vance, informed us, in reply to a letter we addressed to him end of 1854, that his ancestor who first came to Ireland was named George, that in 1662 he fled from Wigtonshire to the North of Ireland, in consequence of having married his cousin Grace, a rich heiress and settled near Dungannon, County Tyrone,—that he or his descendants lived at a place named Drumhirk—that this George had two sons. John the eldest who married a Miss Oliver, was the great grand-father of our correspondent and of the M.P. and their brothers. Of the other son of George Vance he could give no account. Farther, this George was born in Scotland about 1637, came to Ireland with the Charlemont family, settled near them and died about 1757, aged about 120 years.

This account, it will be seen, is very different from that of Mr. Washington Vance; if correct, it has this preciseness the other wants, in giving the Christian name of the original settler but from the first we seriously doubted its correctness, and indeed Mr. Vance had the candour to say “he would not wonder if our account were the correct one.”

The reason assigned for George's flight—marrying his cousin—is very unsatisfactory. Such an event being quite a common occurrence in Scotland, and moreover one very frequent in this very Barnbarroch family, as our readers can see for themselves. Unsatisfactory—that is if we assume that this refugee was of the Barnbarroch family; by-and-bye we will give our reasons for thinking he was not. The great age to which it is stated this refugee lived, dying so recently as 1757, seems an incredible statement. It so rarely happens that a member of the human family lives so long, when it does occur, universal attention is excited thereto, and the record of the fact is sure somehow to be preserved, or at all events, kept in memory traditionally for ages, but after the most diligent enquiry, and that too of some connections of this branch of the Vance family, we have not been able to receive any confirmation of this astounding statement.

At the reputed period of this Mr. George Vance's death, 1757, our own grandfather was 16 years old (born 16th April, 1741), and lived only fifteen or twenty miles apart, but neither he nor his family, who were all distinguished for intelligence, appear ever to have heard of so very aged a namesake or kinsman, and can it be credited that such could have been the fact, and this family ignorant thereof, or if knowing, should never have communicated it to their descendants. We do think this story is incredible.

When engaged anew in the spring of this year in our genealogical investigations, we visited a near relative of our correspondent, at Dungannon, a very aged lady, much beyond three-score and ten, Mrs. Oliver Vance, daughter of a Mr. Oliver Vance—her husband and she were cousins, and aunt to Mr. John Vance, M.P., Thomas Vance, J.P., and their brothers. On submitting to that lady our account of the Vances, and suggesting the improbability of the others being correct, she very stoutly contended for its entire authenticity, professed herself much entertained with our revelations, but said repeatedly we were on the wrong track altogether FOR HER VANCES, that they were, far and away, higher than all the other Vances in Ireland, with all of whom they had no connection whatever, for her ancestor, George's wife, was a titled lady, daughter of a nobleman, and their flight was in consequence of her marrying so much beneath her station, which had given great offence to her connections—to prove her point, she urged as a fact, that this George was a follower, or *protege* of Lord Charlemont, and accompanied him in the ship which brought him to Ireland, when he came to settle there. We here remarked we were under a strong impression she was mistaken, as we apprehended the period of the Charlemont family coming to Ireland, was much earlier than her ancestor could have come, and we did not think they came from Scotland at all; at this or some other period of our interview, the venerable lady said, she understood her Vances were originally from Germany, but that she was not mistaken as to their coming to Ireland with the Charlemont family.

Nevertheless it is a fact she was mistaken. Her theory, as to her ancestor George Vance accompanying the first Lord Charlemont when he came to Ireland is simply absurd, for the

period fixed for George's birth was about 1637, whereas Captain Toby Caulfield who subsequently became Lord Charlemont, came to Ireland not later than 1599, for in that year (see Lodge's peerage) he commanded a company under the Earl of Essex, Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, and in September of that year was stationed at Newry with the command of 150 foot, and in 1602 he commanded Charlemont fort.

We considered this fact wholly overturned the fine theory in question, and were quite inclined to think the statement of Mr. Washington Vance was near the truth, although we doubted if it were quite so near as that John Vance the first of Coagh and this George were brothers, we rather thought they were cousins and could indicate who George was. To endeavour to reconcile differences we determined again to place ourself in communication with the male members of the M.P.'s family. For this purpose and for others we called, March 1860, in Dublin, upon his brother who holds the Commission of the Peace, (a gentleman we had several times seen before, the last time a fortnight previously,) but found him absent, whereupon we wrote him our views, requesting him to forward our communication to his brother William, our whilom correspondent of 1854, and who was esteemed the genealogist of the family, requesting also that this latter would furnish us with his pedigree as far as he could, a similar request we had preferred in writing, a month previously as well as in beginning of 1855.

Nearly eight months has now elapsed since, and although we have twice written to remind this gentleman of our communication—the last time merely requesting to be furnished with the address of his brother our old correspondent we have never had any reply, a discourtesy of which we think we have reason loudly to complain, but perhaps J. P's and brothers of M. P's have some vested right to consider it no rudeness to snub less distinguished folk than themselves, but whether the exercise of any such right real or fancied be consistent with good taste or good breeding or high birth, real or fancied, we leave others to say. This *outré* conduct however, we take as an indication, that this family have voted us a bore (why not tell us so, manfully) and our lucubrations to be matters with which they have no concern, and do not wish to be bothered, their Vances having no connection with ours.*

* Be it known, that about end of 1854, we promptly forwarded to our then correspondent, Mr. William Vance, the rough draft of our "Genealogical and Historical Account of the family of Vance." In acknowledging receipt of which, he professed great thanks for, and gratification by our "politeness"—promised to take good care of, and return our MS.—said he would retain it for ten days to transcribe it, but *he* never returned the same. After a lapse of several months, we had occasion twice to be in Dublin, and called at his residence, once he was out of town, the other time although in town, was from home, when we left our card. Not hearing from him, after some lapse of time we wrote to him, but without result. We then addressed his brother Thomas, now the J.P., calling his attention to the fact, and requesting his interference, he replied thus—"My dear sir, my brother William has been abroad for some months, which prevented your much valued book being returned to you. I now do so, having access to his rooms. I am in hope of seeing him here very shortly, when

We have, therefore, been forced to reconsider the matter—to re-examine in detail the considerable amount of information from various quarters which we had taken note of, and now we have to announce that we quite concur in the view that this family is not connected with the other Vances in Ireland.

We have pointed out the absurdity of George Vance alledged to have been born about 1637, (and *en passant* we may observe that event was likely to have transpired long posteriorly to this) accompanying Captain Caulfield, Lord Charlemont to Ireland in 1599, and the incredibility that this George existed so recently as 1757, (if born in 1637.) And having now got on the right track we believe, which Mrs. Oliver Vance stoutly insisted we had not got for her family history and pedigree; in conducting our readers through that, it will be our duty to submit some facts which we think will go to shew that whatever may be said of the present race or their position, George Vance and his immediate descendants so far from being so high up in the social scale as is now so ostentatiously and complacently claimed, was indeed very low down, in fact, occupying such a place thereon as the descendants of the Rev. John Vans might well be ashamed to think or own them for kindred.

Of the real descendants of the Rev. gentleman we have submitted extracts (from the end of 17th and throughout the 18th century) of the wills and administrations of several of them, all of which go to shew that they were persons well up in the social scale—had considerable substance, and of all the documents we saw containing numerous signatures of the Vances,—Testators—Witnesses and Administrators, the signatures, as far as we remember, were *bona fide*; perfect, and generally in a bold free hand.

In vain we searched for any will of this George in question. The first we found of this family was that of John his son or more likely grandson of date, Drumhirk, County Tyrone, 5th April, 1793. The next we found was that of this latter's son or brother, Oliver Vance, who by some means or other had amassed a considerable amount of property, and whose

you may rely he will state his views and opinion of your manuscript book, and thank you for your very great kindness in affording us such valuable information as it contains. I remain, dear sir, yours very faithfully,

THOMAS VANCE."

Dublin, 2nd August, 1855.

To this we thus replied, of date 6th August, 1855—"I beg to acknowledge receipt of the MS., and express myself gratified that it afforded you any information and entertainment, and will be exceedingly glad on Mr. William's return home, to be favoured with a communication from him. Of course I had a great deal of trouble (generally however pleasing and interesting), in collecting the information committed to writing, and feel very desirous that, after all, correct results should follow, and have much hope your brother may be able to contribute thereto. With much respect, I am, dear sir, yours very truly,

WILLIAM BALBIRNIE."

This is the last communication we have had the honour to receive from this distinguished family, all our essays towards them being treated as we have said, their promises and professions notwithstanding.

will is, far and away, the most voluminous of all the Vance settlements ; this instrument is dated Drumhirk, 24th December, 1796, precisely ninety-nine years and one day after that of Patrick Vance of Lifficulty, the first will we found of the Vance family after that of the Rev. John Vans, (1661.) But oh ! “tell it not in Askelon—publish it not in the streets of Gath.” So illiterate does this person Oliver Vance seem to have been, although the father of the venerable lady in question and grandfather or granduncle of the member for Dublin and his four brothers. He was unable to sign his name. The deed being executed thus Oliver ^{his} + Vance. This will anyone can see in the Registry, Armagh Cathedral, ^{mark} by paying the requisite fee.

So much then for the pre-eminent greatness assumed for this branch of the Irish Vances.

Be it further observed, that whereas we have repeatedly referred to the names of numerous descendants of the Rev. John Vans, to be found in public documents, as in wills, administrations, leases, marriage settlements, &c., throughout the entire of last and end of the previous century. The family of the name of Vance in Ireland now under discussion, (we mean that portion located at Drumhirk, near Dungannon,) appear to be nowhere and nobody, until so recently as 5th April, 1793, the date of the will of John Vance, of Drumhirk, which is absolutely the first document we have discovered, containing any name of, or reference to these Vances throughout Ireland.

In further illustration of the hollowness of the pretensions of this family, we essay to point out their immediate connections located in County Down, and demonstrate their status.

And here, we beg to recall to our readers recollection, a remark we make (on page 25) “unquestionably the Vances of Ireland (with possibly a few exceptions, if exceptions they be, and which will be noted in proper time and place,) are descended from one Scottish Settler, &c.” These County Down, Vances are those we referred to, but when we penned that had no idea of their being immediately connected with the Dungannon or Drumhirk Vances ; the immediate ancestors of Mr. John Vance, M.P. ; Mr. Thomas Vance, J.P. ; Mrs. Oliver Vance, &c.

In the archives of Down and Connor, we find a will of Alexander Vance of Cannococherty parish of Ballyclug, of date 27th November, 1710. Another of Gilbert Vance of Drumhirk, Newtonhards, of date 19th November, 1729. Is not this a striking coincidence. Drumhirk, near Newtonards, County Down,—and Drumhirk, near Dungannon, County Tyrone,—can anyone doubt these two Vances were of the same family ; and yet another will of William Vance, farmer, Drumhirk, Newtonards, dated 27th December, 1774, and there is one little fact connected with each and every of these that does indeed shew all these Vances, whether of German or Dutch, (Van) origin, were quite different Vances from the rest in Ireland, and this is, the deeds are all executed alike—thus Alexander + ^{his} Vance. ^{mark}

Gilbert ^{his} × Vance. William ^{his} + Vance. We are warranted therefore, in affirming that these County Down Vances and those of Drumhirk, near Dungannon, are one family—that they are quite different from the Vances proceeding from the Rev. John Vans—that their progenitor George must have left Scotland, Germany, or Holland, long subsequently to that of the Rev. gentleman, very likely in 1662, the year named by his descendants of the present day—that he was no member of the family of Vans of Barnbarroch, or if allied, he must have been illegitimate or, the descendant of such, for how otherwise is to be accounted for the apparent obscurity of George during the period of his alledged long life, and the positive want of mental culture and wordly position in his descendants near Dungannon, for generations, so different from what we have seen in the descendants of Rev. John Vans, and how else can we account for the great umbrage the alledged marriage of this George Vance to his cousin, a rich heiress by one account of his descendants and a titled lady by another.

Marriages with cousins and with the titled of Scotland—aye, with the very highest families, even with the connections of Royalty had long been the common lot and privilege of the Vans's of Barnbarroch, as well as of their immediate ancestors the Lords Vaux of Dirleton Castle, all set forth in previous parts of this “account,” and had the party in question, (presuming his propinquity to the Barnbarroch House), not been base born or in some other way seriously disqualified for such a connection, he and his wife had a right to dare anyone to fault them—to have stood their ground and make no ignoble flight. We may observe the three wills last referred to, can be seen on paying fees to the Registrar of Down and Connor.

Another difference is made very manifest in the opposite moral and religious principles exemplified by a member of each family, under circumstances precisely similar.

We have produced an extract from the will of William Vance, of Coagh, where ample provision is made for his “reputed” illegitimate son, stipulating for his being brought up a Protestant, and we have seen the result. Whereas Mr. Oliver Vance, of the Dungannon family, seems to have made no such provision for his illegitimate son, Oliver Vance, whom Mr. James Vance, of Derry (see page 55), found in Glasgow, in the humblest walks of life and a Roman Catholic.

The fact is, the one Irish Vance family is ancient—from their antiquity down to the present day, have been pre-eminent for high mental and moral qualities, and social position. The other is a name and house but of yesterday—almost without antecedents—their origin obscure and uncertain—their history in the future, therefore meanwhile, modesty is their becoming attribute, for “let not him that putteth on the armour boast himself as him that putteth it off.”

It must not be presumed, our remarks are made as a reflection on any of the descendants of the party in question, or of the position they have attained to, but when persons presuming on their present status—pluming themselves on the high birth and distinction of their ancestry, affect to despise or ignore the pretensions of others—denying to such the common courtesies of life, which even the peer does not consider it beneath him to accord to the peasant ; they have themselves to blame, if such conduct, leading to the examination of their pretensions and discovering they have no foundation in fact, issues in the honest, though humble historian and genealogist (in the discharge of his duty), shewing whose pretensions are false, and whose are true, placing the “right saddles on the right horses.”

As it has all along been our earnest desire to illicit truth to arrive at correct results in this investigation, we deemed it proper to acquaint this Vance family with our views before they were placed in the hands of any other Vances—that is before they were printed, consequently we forwarded to the gentleman of that family to whom we had written so often and several times spoke with, a copy of that portion of our MS. having reference to them with the accompanying note.

Cork, 16th August, 1860.

Sir,—“ For your information, and through you, that of others whom it may concern, I beg to forward you the accompanying extract from my ‘Genealogical and Historical Account of the family of Vance,’ soon to be printed, and to state, should you or they have any objection to any of its sentiments or facts, I shall give a candid attention to them—if submitted to me within a reasonable time, and if you or they have facts to exhibit or suggestions to make—which would lead to conclusions different to those at which, after very careful and pains-taking investigation, I have arrived, I will be most happy to make the necessary corrections, so that my production may be as exact and truthful as it can be.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

WILLIAM BALBIRNIE.

Thomas Vance, Esq., J.P., Bridge Street, Dublin.

Our task is now nearly completed, and in taking leave of our readers, we hope we have afforded them some entertainment and enlightenment, and have awakened in their breasts some portion of that interest with which we ourself were inspired—which nerved us from time to time to prosecute our arduous and trying undertaking. Although our labours have been long, arduous, and often fatiguing to body and mind, we are not satisfied that we have handled our subject as it ought to have been, and would doubtless have been in abler hands. Whatever deficiencies or imperfections are to be found in it, either as to matter of fact—to arrangement—to diction, we must claim the indulgence of our readers ; let them not forget we are the veriest tyro, this being our first appearance, in all likelihood our last in print, and criticise with gentleness and forbearance.

We close this account, by furnishing in an appendix, sundry genealogical tables, deduced from the foregoing, shewing the descent of different branches of Ireland, from the House of Barnbarroch, and all from the Lords de Vaux of Normandy.



APPENDIX.

GENEALOGICAL TABLES.

THE SCOTTISH FAMILY.

HAROLD DE VAUX, LORD OF NORMANDY.

Hubert, Rundolph, and Robert, his sons accompanied William the Conqueror,
 Rundolph De Vaux, son or grandson of Hubert, was the first in Scotland,
 Phillip De Vallibus was his son,
 Johannes Vaux, or De Vallibus, his son was Lord of Dirleton,
 Alexander De Vallibus was his son and successor,
 Johannes De Vallibus was his son and successor,
 Thomas Vaux, his eldest son and successor, died without issue,
 ——— Vaux, his next brother succeeded,
 William De Vallibus, his son and successor,
 Thomas, Lord Vaux, his son succeeded, died without issue,
 William, Lord Vaux, his brother succeeded,
 Johannes Vans, Vaux, or De Vallibus, a younger brother either
 of the last two, or of their father William, went to Gallway,
 Johannes Vaux, or Vans of Barnbarroch, his son succeeded,
 Robert Vans of Barnbarroch, do. do.
 Blanse Vans „ do. do.
 Sir Patrick Vans „ do. do.
 Alexander Vans „ do. do.
 Sir John Vans „ do. do.
 Alexander Vans „ do. do.
 Sir Patrick Vans „ his brother succeeded,
 Sir John Vans „ his son succeeded,
 Sir Patrick Vans „ do. do. (and Rev John Vansdill
 John Vans „ do. do.
 Alexander Vans „ his brother succeeded,
 Colonel Patrick Vans „ his son succeeded,
 John Vans „ do. do.
 Robert Vans Agnew „ do. do.
 John Vans Agnew „ do. do.
 Colonel Patrick Vans Agnew, his brother succeeded,
 Robert Vans Agnew, of Barnbarroch, the Colonel's son, succeeded,
 and is the present representative.

Descendants of Patrick Vans, eldest son of Rev. John Vans,

Sir John Vans, of Barnbarroch and Longcastle,

Rev. John Vans,

Patrick Vans,

{ (Second), George of Raneel, (First) Patrick Vans of Forthill (Third), James, and (Fourth),
 (Fifth), Alexander of Derry, David, of ~~Dumgorman~~ *Dumgorman*,
 (Sixth), William of Blenevoher, (Seventh), Thomas of the Point }

Rev. Patrick Vance, T.C.D.,

Rev. Thomas Vance, L.L.D.,

Rev. Patrick Vance of Belfast,

Thomas Vance of Belfast, and { Rev. William Forde Vance,

Patrick Vance of Liverpool, &c { Rev. Geo. and Wm F Vance,

Thomas Arthur Vance, &c.,

George Vance of Raneel,

Thomas Vance of Raneel,

Hugh Vance of Gortward,

Hugh Vance, do.

James Vance, do.

Hugh Vance, do.

George Vance of Raneel,

William Vance, Aughavea,

William Vance, do.

John Vance, do.

Margaret Vance (Mrs. Brown)

Samuel Brown,

William Vance of Aughavea,

James Vance of Ballymacombs

James Vance do.

James Vance of Ballyforlea,

Robert Vance of Belfast,

David Nisbet Vance, &c.

James Vance of Drumgorman,

Patrick Vance do.

John Vance do.

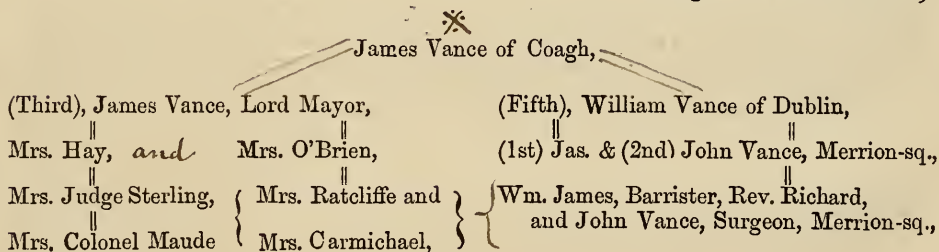
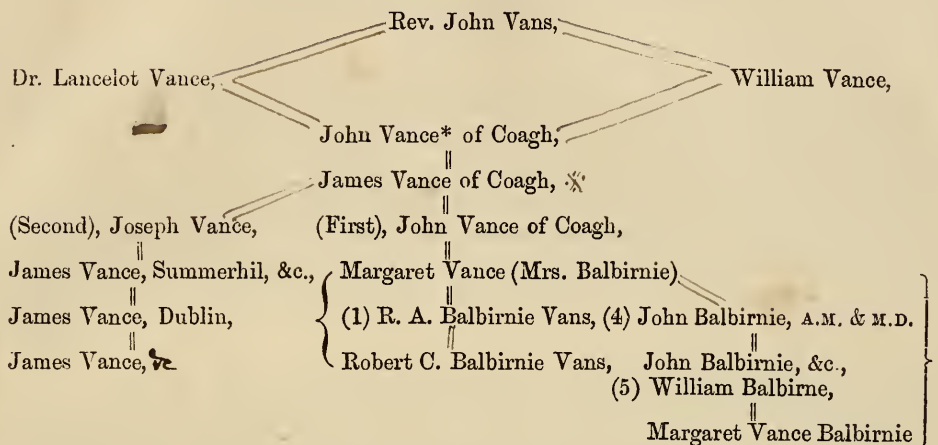
Patrick Vance, (First),

Alexander Vance, &c.

Alexander Vance, (Second)

Israel Vance, &c.

Descendants of younger son of Rev. John Vans.—



John Vance, first of Coagh,

(3^d) William Vance of Antrim,

William Vance Do.

(First), William Vance,

William Vance of Antrim, &c.

(Second), Ezekiel Vance,

Three sons in America, and William

* At page 28. in describing the paternity of John Vance, the first of Coagh, we state he was Rev. John Vans's grandson, and believe him to have been the grandson. John, son of William, mentioned in the rev. gentleman's will, although if there were a Lancelot as Mr. Washington Vance asserts, then he was his son. A further investigation of the will confirms our belief that the John mentioned therein was he who subsequently settled in Coagh, for it is not stated as we thought it was, that this John was William's son—he may have been, but was just as likely to have been the son of Lancelot, although the latter's name is not mentioned in the deed. We have attempted to account for the rev. gentleman, not mentioning his son Patrick, and for such a reason may have omitted Lancelot, while he makes some provision for his son.

POSTSCRIPT.

BEFORE placing the foregoing sheets into the hands of the bookbinder, we think we owe it to ourself to acquaint our readers, that we ordered our printer to suspend printing the last few pages having reference to the Vances of Dungannon, &c., of which the M.P. for Dublin is a member—that we forwarded to that gentleman, addressed to him at Leeds, where we understood was his chief seat of business—to his brother Andrew, the Barrister at Dublin, and to Thomas, the Merchant of that city, proof copies of those pages and also to the two former, copies of the following note which we addressed to the last, and forwarded by same post with the proofs.

Cork, 16th November, 1860.

“Sir—Although my last communication to you of 16th August—accompanied by that portion of the MS. of my “Genealogical and Historical Account of the family of Vance,” which had reference to the Irish Vances to which you belong, has met at your hands the same treatment as my previous ones, and might fully justify me in—yea, deter me from holding any further communication with you, yet, being desirous, if possible, to prevent your Vances from cutting in print, the somewhat ridiculous figure as it appears to me I have been coerced to cause them to do, I forward to you that portion of my book commencing page 57, previous to its being bound (having stopped the press) to afford you and others whom it may concern, a last chance before the production becomes circulated among my own kinsmen, to have your family to occupy a different position therein provided you or they can shew they have been erroneously represented, and I beg to add, that having a strong conviction of your having kept your brothers in ignorance of my proceedings and correspondence I am forwarding copies to such of them whose address I have, of this note and its accompaniment, certifying should I hear not from any of them or you say within a week, the printing will be finished and my book placed in the hands of the bookbinder, and should any awkward or unpleasant consequences follow, my kinsmen will know for why, and who is to blame.

I have the honour to be, SIR, your most obedient Servant,

Thomas Vance, Esq., J.P., Bridge-st., Dublin.

WILLIAM BALBIRNIE.

Having waited two instead of one week without a communication from either of the parties in question, or any one on their behalf, we have no alternative but to bring our labours to a close. We make no further comment on the ominous silence of this family, our readers are quite as well able as ourselves to draw conclusions.

In conclusion, we remark there are a few typographical errors throughout this production which possibly we may correct hereafter with the pen in each copy. We further observe that we shall have some blank leaves inserted at the end to afford opportunity to parties correcting any mistakes we may have made—supplying omissions or amplifying and extending our observations.

The short account of the Balbirnies which follows hereinafter we have judged it prudent to bind along with that of the Vances, but as the latter family cannot be expected to take any interest therein, they need not trouble themselves with its perusal.

The portraits we have placed in front of the latter will not, we hope, be deemed by members of either family out of place or in bad taste. Such may be very unusual, but our readers will please bear in mind the production and printing of such a work, not for public but for family use and reference, is very unusual. No objection we presume can be made to the portrait of General Jackson, and we hope some of the Coagh Vances will be able to trace a resemblance to him in some of its members, which we think we can distinctly do.

Cork, 3rd December, 1860.







Geo. Walburne — Margaret Anne Walburne R. A. M.

AN HISTORICAL AND GENEALOGICAL ACCOUNT

OF THE

FAMILY OF BALBIRNIE,

CHIEFLY OF THE DESCENDANTS OF THE BALBIRNIES OF INVERYGHTY,
IN FORFARSHIRE.

*Balbirnie
Arms*

THE Name Balbirnie has for ages been a common one in some of the eastern counties of Scotland, particularly in Forfar and Fifeshires. At the middle of the sixteenth century, and it is believed for many ages previously, there flourished two chiefs of the name, viz., Balbirnie of that ilk (otherwise of Balbirine) in Fifeshire, and Balbirnie of Inveryghty in Forfarshire. More than a century previously to this time there are records* testifying that one of the name held a conspicuous position in the city and at the town council of Edinburgh.

The house of Balbirnie of that ilk became extinct for want of male heirs during the latter half of the sixteenth century, as we find recorded* in 1558, that Margaret Balbirnie, heiress of Balbirnie of that ilk, married into the house of the Setons of Karriston, cadets of the Earls of Winton. Karriston was in the neighbourhood of Balbirnie, and during the following century the estates passed out of that family—at least out of the name of Seton.

As to the estate of Balbirnie, we find it† during an early part of the seventeenth century, in the possession of Sir Alexander Clarke, in whose family it continued till near the end of that century, when it passed into the family of Balfour, in whose possession it continues till the present day. The registers of the parish of Markinch during most of this century, contain various entries regarding the families of Clarke and Balfour, of Balbirnie.

Of the other chief of the Balbirnie family—he of Inveryghty, we shall have occasion, by-and-bye to speak,—meanwhile, we propose to give some account of the descendants of that house, beginning as our investigations into the family led us, by tracing the descent backwards, in the first instance, that is from the present day.

In our Genealogical Account of the family of De Vaux, we have stated that Mr. George Balbirnie, a cadet of the house of Inveryghty, married, end of 1797, Miss Margaret Vance, third daughter of John Vance, Esq., of Coagh, County Tyrone, Ireland. This being the time of the Irish Rebellion, and Mr. Balbirnie being an officer in a Scottish Regiment, while stationed in the neighbourhood of Coagh, formed the acquaintance of Miss Vance, to whom he was

* In the Register House, Edinburgh.

† Register Parish of Markinch.

married by the Rev. Mr. Mc'Leiland, Presbyterian Minister of Coagh. Of this event there is no record extant, nor is it likely there ever was any made, as until recently very few records were kept in Ireland of either births, marriages, or deaths. In the year 1854, we were in communication with an aged lady, a daughter of this clergymen, who said she believed her father kept no register of the marriages which he solemnized, but she was well aware he married this couple, as she had frequently heard him speak of the event, and what made her to know more particularly of the transaction, was from being a companion of Miss Vance's, and from having a brother, who was an officer in the same regiment with Mr. Balbirnie. In the absence of evidence of the solemnization of this marriage from any register of the same, we had the good fortune to fall in with an elderly lady, Mrs. Sarah Blackwood, who witnessed the ceremony, and who was then the only person alive who had done so, to which she made affidavit. A family of eleven children resulted from this union, the eldest of whom was born in Larne, County Antrim, on 1st October, 1798, who was named Robert Anstruther, after the Colonel commanding the regiment, who was of the Anstruthers of Elie, Fifeshire. The next child was a daughter, who was born at Ballymena, County Antrim, July, 1800. Shortly after this time the regiment returned to Scotland, where it was disbanded, subsequently to which, Mr. George Balbirnie settled in Glasgow, and was the first of the family or name known to be resident in the West of Scotland, and where the other nine children were born, of whom Dr. John Balbirnie, a celebrated hydropathic physician, and author of several learned and masterly works in his profession, was one, the author of this another. The eldest son Mr. Robert Anstruther Balbirnie, married Miss Agnes Hill, daughter of Mr. Archibald Hill, of Largs, Ayrshire, by whom on 1st October, 1824 (his own birth day), he had a son born, named Robert Charles; in the summer of 1839 he had alive, beside this son, four daughters, viz., Margaret Vance Agnes, Matilda, and Jessie, and another son, an infant, John, at which time he emigrated with his family to the Colony of Victoria, where in process of time, by prudence, diligent perseverance, and that strict regard for honour and integrity which was a striking characteristic of many of his ancestors, paternal and maternal, he attained to a position of great respectability and wealth, and was honoured with the Commission of the Peace for the Colony of Victoria and the City of Melbourne. Mr. Balbirnie having for some years contemplated paying a visit to the mother country, left the colony in January, 1854, accompanied by his wife, younger son, and six daughters, two of the latter having been born in Australia, they arrived in the Thames, end of April following; they came with an intention of remaining about two years, and permanently returning to their home in the Colony, but circumstances transpired to render Mr. R. A. Balbirnie's presence necessary in the Colony, and he returned by the "James Baines," sailing December, 1854. It was his purpose to have returned for his family within a year, but providence had decreed otherwise, as it pleased the Almighty

to remove him from this life into an unchanging eternity, on 16th August, 1855. His sorrowing widow and family sailed, on their return, by the same ship, "James Baines," in April, 1856

Shortly after Mr. R. A. Balbirnie's arrival in London, he communicated with us desiring us to make an investigation into his ancestry paternal and maternal, the which having done we committ the result to paper. At the commencement of this our labor a field of research quite new to us, we had exceedingly scanty materials to work upon, knew little of our ancestors, and especially respecting our paternal ones felt puzzled as to a *locale* to begin. But in obedience to our Scottish proverb putting "a stout heart to a stae brae,*" we set ourselves to the task with a will, worked out our purpose with untiring zeal and unflagging diligence, encountering many difficulties and discouragements, but ultimately collecting such a mass of evidence as rendered its colation and reduction to order a work of great difficulty and perplexity. One branch of our researches is comprised in the "Genealogical Account of the family of De Vaux." We now record what we can of the Balbirnie family.

Among different branches or members of the Balbirnie family, two traditions had long obtained, namely—that we were directly descended from the Balbirnie's of Inveryghty, whose estates became forfeited to the crown by attainder, in consequence of the last laird becoming compromised in one of the Scottish rebellions, and this tradition fixed the period at 1715, commonly termed Mars Rebellion, that this gentleman, the last of Inveryghty, had three sons, who on the fall of their house betook themselves to honorable toil, all adopting the same profession or calling, viz., that of cloth fullers or waulkers, as is the Scottish term, and Dyers. The other tradition was that they were also nearly allied to the Lords Balmerino, the last of whom suffered on the scaffold with Lords Kilmarnock, Cromarty, and Lovat, for the part he and they took in the rebellion of 1745-6.

It has already been shewn our immediate ancestor was Mr. George Balbirnie. It is somewhat singular that, although bearing an ancient Scottish name, and the registers in Scotland of the baptism of ten or twelve of his brothers and sisters is found;† he himself was born in Ireland, and thus it happened. In early life, his father, Charles Balbirnie, took shipping for America with a view to emigration, but was wrecked in the Irish channel, in the neighbourhood of Drogheda, to which place he proceeded, and finding a suitable opening, established himself there, where he married a Miss Catherine Manning, daughter of a respectable gentleman in that neighbourhood, and where they had five or six children.

Drogheda is one of the few places in Ireland in which there are registers of births for any considerable portion of the last century, the register extends back for a considerable period, but has some leaps therein. This was very diligently searched for entries of

* Steep Hill.

† Records, Kemback Parish, Fifeshire.

the births of these children, especially George's. But it was not to be found, and of the others the birth or baptism of only one girl, viz., "Ellen, daughter of Charles Balbirnie and Catherine Manning" was found. In 1854 there lived at Drogheda, an old gentleman between eighty and ninety years of age, Obadiah Wisdom, Esq., who recollected perfectly of Charles Balbirnie, Dyer, and some of his children with whom he used to play when a child.

Charles Balbirnie, our grandfather, was born in the parish of Dairsie, Fifeshire, where the solemnization of his baptism, on 27th February, 1744, is registered. He died in Edinburgh, summer of 1826, in his eighty-third year, having had by his wife sixteen children, besides three still born, in all nineteen. He had several brothers and sisters. A sister named Allison, married a Mr. Loudon, whose descendants are still in that locality. His eldest brother Arthur long held the farm of Pitscottie,* in Kembock parish adjoining that of Dairsie. It is believed this Arthur never married, at all events he died childless, he made a considerable sum of money, most of which fell into the hands of his nephew Arthur, our father's eldest brother, who although married, died childless. Another brother of Charles's, named Patrick, was an Officer of Excise, who married a Miss Marjorybanks, and had four daughters and one son.

This last was John Balbirnie, Esq. York terrace, Kingsland, London, resident half a century in the Metropolis lately deceased. He was born at Doune, Perthshire, on 7th February, 1776, and married on 10th February, 1819, to his second wife, Miss Elizabeth Selkirk, of Jedburgh, Roxburgshire, who have had issue—John, Sarah, Patrick, George, Elizabeth, Rachel, Samuel, and Joseph, of whom Patrick and George (twins) and Rachel are dead. George died at Renfrew, March, 1846, of whom it may be observed he had a very strong resemblance to our brother Dr. John Balbirnie, although nearly thirteen years younger than the Doctor.

Samuel, son of Mr. John Balbirnie, married on 29th June, 1852, Miss Maria Stubbs, of Kingsland, and has issue.

The father of our grandfather Charles, and of Patrick Balbirnie, was John, born at Dairsie mill, and baptised there on 26th November, 1699, whose father was Patrick Balbirnie, of Dairsie mill, Dyer and Cloth Fuller. This John, our great-grandfather, was no ordinary man. The records of the kirk session, of the parish of Dairsie, abound during many years with references to him. Thus, "Dairsie, 21st May, 1729," "after prayer, sederunt, minister and elders this day the session, considering the paucity of their numbers

* The successor of Mr. Arthur Balbirnie in the farm of Pitscottie, Mr. David Lees, well remembers Charles Balbirnie and his numerous children, some of the boys of which were his playmates. He shewed us what was his garden along the banks of the stream, and pointed out the spot where his house and waulk (or fulling) mill stood, but not a vestige of them was to be seen, the whole being ploughed up, and at the time we were there a most luxuriant crop was on the ground. Mr. Lees informed us that our grandfather composed a very amusing poem concerning his family of sixteen children, this is the first we had heard of a poetical vein being in the family.

and the need they had of more elders, and understanding that William Short, William Mitchell, John Balbirnie, and Robert Brown, were persons fitted and qualified for bearing that office, thought fit to nominate them to be elders of the church, and ordered the edict to be served for that end against sabbath next."

"Dairsie, 4th June, 1729. After prayer, ministers and elders, William Short, William Mitchell, John Balbirnie, and Robert Brown, their edict being served on 25th May, and nothing having been objected against them, the session do think fit, and orders the aforesaid persons be ordained elders of the church, in this parish, on sabbath next, in the forenoon," &c., &c.

Many other extracts might be given which would go to shew that this John Balbirnie was a character that stood out pre-eminent among his compeers, shining with peculiar lustre, as a man of no ordinary energy of mind, decision of character, and sterling integrity. The minutes of session abound with notices of his diligence in attendance to the collections for the poor and disbursements thereof, and records his appointment to a place of trust, namely—as factor for certain lands in their possession, for behalf of the poor and his intromissions therewith—of his appointment in 1740, to represent his parish in the Synod and Presbytery, and particularly of his appointment to an evidently onerous, trustworthy, and probably delicate commission of proceeding to Edinburgh to negotiate regarding the delivery of certain documents, and to "receive" and "bring over" to the kirk session the sum of £704 12s 2d. It may be here observed, that on first applying to the session clerk of Dairsie, and announcing our desire to have the record searched for the name of Balbirnie, he instantly replied the name is often to be met with, especially of John Balbirnie who flourished more than a hundred years ago, and whom he regarded as having been the leading man in the parish. Patrick Balbirnie had several other children, but John seems to have been the eldest, but about the period before and subsequent to his birth, the register is somewhat mutilated, so much so, that in the record of the baptism of one child subsequent to Johns, the only portion of the name visible is m. On 8th November, 1707, he had a son William baptised. He had another named Patrick after himself, who settled in the City of St. Andrews, carrying on the business of his father a dyer and fuller of cloth, there he attained a position of respectability and honour, being a member of the incorporation and a magistrate of that ancient royal burgh, of yore the capital of Scotland, he married 29th March, 1721, Beatrix, daughter of the Rev. Mr. David Balfour, of Logie, by whom he had two sons, Patrick and David—and two daughters, Catherine and Christian. He died early in life, namely—30th November, 1737.

The eldest son Patrick, of Patrick Balbirnie of St. Andrew's, was baptized 9th August, 1722, left St. Andrews and Fifeshire and removed into Forfarshire—settling down to the business of his father Patrick and grandfather Patrick on the banks of the Dighty Water,

near Dundee. He married a Miss Margaret Gib, and in the registers of Strathmartin parish, we find the register of the baptism of one son and four daughters between 1757 and 1766. He married his second wife, Miss Agnes Balharrie, by whom between 1770 and 1783, he had five sons and one daughter, as per register. It is somewhat strange of this gentleman that the register sometimes designates him Patrick, and sometimes Peter. Of his sons by his second wife, the eldest died at fourteen; the second called Peter was alive and residing in the parish of his birth in 1854, in his eighty-third year, a widower but never had a child, his younger brother George was also then alive, resided near him, a bachelor, aged seventy-six.

Patrick's second daughter Helen, by first wife, married a Mr. James Hoy, she was many years dead, but Mr. Hoy was then alive aged eighty-nine years, spending the decline of life in comfort with his children and grand-children; it was rather singular that these ancient members of the family had quite lost the tradition of their descent from Balbirnie of Invergythy, indeed they had very little knowledge of their own father, this may be accounted for from his dying in 1786, when Peter and George were quite young.

To return to Patrick Balbirnie of Dairsie* Mill, the progenitor of all the members of the family we have hitherto alluded to (which however is not nearly all of whom we have culled information). We instituted a rigorous search to ascertain where and when he was born, but without success,—we chiefly depended upon this to be obtained in the parish of Kennetles, near Forfar, in which Invergythy is situated, but unfortunately the records of that parish did not go beyond the beginning of last or end of previous century. Other sources of information as to this point and generally as to the Balbirnie's of Invergythy—and particularly as to the last laird were being sought by us, in which investigation Mr. R. A. Balbirnie Vans (who had assumed this last patronymic by the Queen's sign manuel, as noticed in the account of the family of De Vaux) requested the aid of William Anderson, Esq., Marchmont, Herald, Register-house, Edinburgh. But before sufficient opportunity was afforded of arriving at satisfactory results, Mr. B. Vans deeming the investigation of no great consequence and likely to be very tedious, requested it to be discontinued, and no sufficient reason or opportunity has offered to the writer hereof further to prosecute the enquiry on this point.

It will be remembered we announced that a tradition was prevalent in the Balbirnie family—that the last of Invergythy had three sons all of whom adopted one calling—that of cloth fullers and dyers. Now this Patrick Balbirnie of Dairsie, we announce to be one of these three and we think there is pretty strong evidence that he was the eldest,—however, we are bound to admit that the descendants of one of the other two sons over a century ago

* He too was an elder. Held that sacred office in 1701, when nominated not to be found in Register; his name is to be found in St. Andrews, as Patrick Balbirnie, elder, a witness to the baptism of his grand-child Catherine, on 20th September, 1724.

considered themselves the heirs or representatives of Invergythy, but after this lapse of time and the probability of the register of their births not being extant, this point may never be established, besides it is of no material consequence, as no good purpose would be served thereby, as no rank, precedence or estate is depending thereupon. But what of the other two sons.

Let us re-cross the Tay into Forfarshire, the native county of this branch of the family, and there we find on the banks of the Dighty Water, ten or twelve miles from their paternal estates, the brothers snugly nestled, pursuing their peaceful and useful avocations, the name of the one was John, who had one son, named James, baptized on 9th April, 1707, who seems to have been his only child—his wife's name was Margaret Tulloch. The other son of Invergythy is designated "George Balbirney, of Waulk Mill of Balmuir," and we find, between 1711 and 1726, the register of the births of five children, John, Margaret, James, George, Elizabeth. We find it recorded of George, that like his brother Patrick, and his nephew, John of Darsie, he too was chosen to the honourable and useful position of the eldership in the Kirk of Scotland, thus "7th April, 1717, George Balbirney of the Mill of Balmuir, was solemnly ordained and admitted an elder."

James Balbirnie, the son of John, went into Fifeshire, settling at Kilconquhar Mill, in the parish of that name, about ten miles from St. Andrews, and not far from the celebrated East Neuk* of Fife—here he married Miss Euphemia Bruce, of a respectable family in that neighbourhood, and had two daughters, Margaret, born 5th November, 1739, and Agnes, born 8th October, 1742, the latter died a spinster, but Margaret married Mr. Adam Craig of Edinburgh, Tailor and Clothier, and had several children, the first-born was named James Balbirnie† after his grandfather, and in comparative infancy left the parental roof and went to his grand-parents at Kilconquhar Mill, who brought him up to the business. When a youth, he left his grandfather for a season in quest of improvement in his business, and engaged himself to Mr. Bouglas, a Dyer, &c., of Peebles, whose daughter Margaret he married, and returned to his grandfather who about this time died and to whose business he succeeded. Subsequently this gentleman greatly extended his business—joining with it

* Anglice Corner.

† A circumstance of some considerable interest connected with the birth of this child, is worthy of being placed on record. The birth was coeval with that of King George the Third's first-born. His Majesty and the Queen we presume, were desirous to engage a respectable young Scotch Mother as nurse to the young Prince of Wales.—The future magnificent George the Fourth, "the most finished gentleman of Europe," and commissioned their physicians for Scotland to select such, whose choice fell upon Mrs. Craig, a pial of whose milk was transmitted to London, whereupon she was summoned to the Palace to enter upon the duties of nurse to the young Prince. The maternal feeling however was stronger than the love of distinction or of emolument, and she declined the appointment—declaring she would not forsake her own boy even to perform a mother's part to a Prince of Wales the future King of England.

This Prince 'tis well known lived to a good old age, passed his three score and ten, but his intended foster-brother survived till four score and four. He went from Fife to see his Majesty on the occasion of his visit to Scotland in 1822, and was gratified with a sight of the King.

the grinding of corn—and held also a considerable farm of the Bethunes of Kilconquhar House. Late in life he went to Musselburgh where he died in October 1844, aged 84. He never had a son, but left three daughters, the eldest of whom, Agnes, married Mr. George Patterson, of Musselburgh, who subsequently settled in Glasgow, and had two children, James, a stationer in that city, an elder in the United Presbyterian Church, under the paternal care of Rev. Dr. John Macfarlane, and a daughter, Margaret. The second daughter, Euphemia, married Mr. Stevenson, a farmer, who died two or three years subsequently, leaving her with two daughters, Margaret and Agnes ; but here, in this branch and for the third generation, the name is lost ending with a female—this is the family that long had the belief of being descended from Inveryghty's eldest son, the late Mr. James Balbirnie Craig having often heard his mother say, that after her father she was heiress to the estate, were it recoverable.

Of the third of Inveryghty's sons, George, we find his eldest son, John, first settled at Mid Mill, on the Dighty rivulet, married to Miss Jane Anderson, by whom he had a daughter, Agnes, baptized 18th February, 1733, thereafter he is designated of Harestone Mill, same parish, having another daughter, born July, 1735, a son, John, December, 1737, and lastly, a son, George, November, 1740 ; all notice of either of these families in this parish end with this last record. These brothers, John and George, Inveryghty's grandsons, there is good reason to believe settled in the parish of Kerriemuir, Forfarshire, and if so, singularly enough, they dropped the prefix of their name, Bal, recurring to what we believe was originally the name, and called themselves Birnie.

George's name first appears in the register of this parish, married a Miss Tyrie, which states "2nd December, 1767, George Birnie, Merchant, Ballinshoe, and Js. Tyrie had a child baptized Jean." The next occurrence of the name runs thus : "27th April, 1770, John Birnie, Dyer in Kerriemuir, had a child baptized Elizabeth," the baptism of three other children of each of these gentlemen is registered, but George is subsequently designated Manufacturer, and John of Meikle Mill, subsequently we find James Birnie of Meikle Mill (John's eldest son) married to a Miss Duncan, who had a son named David, baptized 9th February, 1803, three daughters and one son were born subsequently, the last in June, 1810, named James,—here again ends all trace of this branch, nor have any of the name apparently been in the parish for many years.

The Rev. Dr. Easton who had been minister of this parish for about fifty years, and in whose hands were the registers—said he remembers the family—finds one of them was an efficient elder—intromitted with the funds of the parish—and in fact acted as a sort of banker to the session—and says it is evident he must have been a man of great probity.

To return to the family on the banks of the Dighty, we have just traced the descendants of George's eldest son John, his second son James born in 1714, also went into Fifeshire

and settled at Kirkaldy, where he had a son James, who carried on very successfully the business that appears so peculiar to this family. At a good old age, having acquired a competency, he retired into private life, living for many years at honorable ease on the proceeds of his industry and died upwards of forty years ago. He had one son who perished serving his King and country at Camperdown, under his immortal countryman Duncan, and left a married daughter whose descendants are still alive in that locality. This line too it is seen ends in a female. Thus much for one part of the family tradition, we think we have clearly established it is founded on fact, but for that part which fixes the early part of the eighteenth century, as the period of the last laird of Invergythy getting embroiled in civil war—and in consequence becoming attainted, it is manifest is erroneous, as a considerable time anterior to this—even at the end of the seventeenth century, Patrick is found at Dairsie Fife, and the other two sons some years before Mars Rebellion located on the Dighty rivulet. And besides having had the honor to receive an order from Lord Palmerston during the time his Lordship held the seals of the Home Office (1854) to search the papers relative to the Mar Rebellion—in the state paper office, nothing was certainly discovered relating to Balbirnie of Invergythy. This gentleman, therefore, had been compromised with the powers that were, considerably before this time, and we see good reason for concluding that it was for righteousness sake that the last Invergythy suffered. Let it be borne in mind that, during a considerable portion of the latter half of the seventeenth century this country was torn by religious dissensions during the reigns of Charles the first and second and James the second, and we have no doubt he had espoused the popular cause, and thereby became obnoxious to the sovereign, who had seized some opportunity that had presented for hurling his vengeance on Invergythy's devoted head.

Our reasons for concluding it was the popular side he had espoused, are drawn from the character of many of his descendants, in which we are warranted, at this distance of time, if there be any truth in the adage 'like father like son.'

The religious element largely obtained in his descendants in more than one generation and in more than one branch of his family. We have seen that on "7th April, 1717, his son George Balbirnie, of the Mill of Balmuir, was solemnly ordained and admitted an elder" of the Kirk, this office was bestowed only on men of piety, shrewdness, and sterling integrity, and then we have seen, if our conjecture be right that John and George his grandchildren removed to Kirremuir—that one of them was a highly distinguished elder of the Scottish Kirk, according to the testimony of the venerable and distinguished clergyman of the parish, Dr. Easton.

Again Patrick Balbirnie of Dairsie, we find officiating so early as 1701, as an elder of the Kirk there—and during a long series of years thereafter—his name frequently occurs in the records of the kirk session—taking a prominent part in its ecclesiastical affairs. His son

John (our great grandfather) walked worthily in the steps of his father we have also seen. We are not aware that John's son Charles (our grandfather) ever held any official position in the church, but have always heard him characterised as a good man. His son George (our father) after his marriage and when with his regiment in Ireland—became with our mother attached to the Wesleyan Methodists, with whom they continued in fellowship for nearly half a century and until their decease in 1846. He held office in that church and was held in high esteem by the numerous ministers that from time to time visited or sojourned in Glasgow—by the Methodists as well as by his fellow citizens generally. Two or three of his sons have also had the honour to hold office in the Methodist church. John of Dairsie's grandson, Mr. John Balbirmie of London, lately deceased, had long been an humble-minded devoted christian, we believe a zealous official character in the congregational church under the pastoral care of the celebrated Dr. Campbell of Kingsland.

Of Inveryghty's remaining son John, or of John's son James, who settled at Kilconquhar mill, there is no evidence that either of them took any prominent part in the church. The latter's grandson Mr. James Balbirmie Craig, we believe, in earlier life had taken a somewhat prominent position on religious subjects, at least it is certain he left the church of Scotland, and joined himself to the dissenters of the United secession body. This gentleman was highly esteemed during a long life, and for many years had so grave and venerable appearance, with considerable corpulency, as to be constantly by those who did not know him taken for a clergyman.

It is our happiness to possess a portrait of this gentleman, a correct likeness taken when he was about seventy years of age, and most persons who look at it for the first time ask what clergyman's likeness it is. We have already remarked that this gentleman's grandson, Mr. James C. Paterson of Glasgow, is an elder in the United Presbyterian church.

A younger brother of Mr. James Balbirmie Craig, Mr. John Craig, Tailor and Clothier, of Edinburgh, who died a few years ago, was long a distinguished member of the Baptist church in that metropolis, was one of its deacons and a lay preacher, and this John's eldest son, James Craig, Esq., Merchant in Edinburgh, is an elder in the free church of Scotland.

Having thus sketched the characters, and status in the religious world of many of the descendants of the last laird of Inveryghty, we think it requires no sketch of fancy legitimately to assume that in himself the religious element had predominated, and that in defence of civil and religious liberty, and against the tyranny and bigotry of the powers that then were, he had taken up arms and sacrificed himself to their fury. To this conclusion, it may be objected; if so, 'why was he not reinstated in his estates, and restored to his social position after the succession in 1688 of William of Orange.' It does not seem difficult to meet this objection; it is certain that many forfeited estates in these times never returned to their rightful owners, and many were never in the least degree re-imbursed for the loss and

damage they had sustained in the time of their country's troubles. The estates have long been in the possession of the Earls of Strathmore, whose castle of Glamis is only three or four miles distant, into whose hands it is likely to have passed irredeemably before the Revolution which seated William third on the throne of these kingdoms.

Having thus far recorded our researches and the conclusions to which we have arrived, it must be confessed we have not yet shewn that really there ever was the Balbirnie's of Invergythy. We visited that locality—consulted the register of the parish of Kennettles in which the estate is located; the register extends for one hundred and fifty years or more, but does not go far enough back, and hence no notice was met with of the family or of their connexion with the estate.

An application to the clerk of the county at Forfar was equally barren of result as was every other inquiry in Forfarshire. Not so, however, a search at the office of records Register House, Edinburgh, for there we saw and procured a copy, of a "Royal Charter" under the "Great seal of Mary Queen of Scots," dated 1562, granting to Alexander Balbirney, son of John Balbirney of Invergythy, certain lands in the charter set-forth, thus all doubts of the fact of the Balbirnie's having possessed and enjoyed the estates of Invergythy were set at rest.

It is very likely a search in the state paper office for papers relating to the latter half of the seventeenth century would reveal some particulars regarding the lapse of these estates, but as Lord Palmerston's order was confined to papers relating to Mars Rebellion, a fresh application to his lordship would have been necessary. Other sources of information as to this point and generally as to the preceeding Balbirnie's of Invergythy, were being sought by us, and by William Anderson, Esq., Marchmont Herald, Lord Lyons office, Edinburgh, whose aid was asked by Mr. Balbirnie Vans, but before sufficient opportunity was afforded of arriving at satisfactory results, Mr. Balbirnie Vans, at whose instigation these investigations have been made, requested them to be discontinued on this head, deeming the enquiry of no great consequence for the end he had in view, especially as it was likely to be very tedious and difficult.

From what has been detailed it must be confessed that the tradition so prevalent in the Balbirnie family of propinquity to the Lord's Balmerino, appears to have no foundation in fact, and the only clue we can discover, a sufficiently insignificant one truly—for such an idea being entertained is—that the last Lord Balmerino's name was Arthur, and Arthur was the name of a brother of our grandfathers, also of his eldest son, and a third Arthur is a brother of our own. The other tradition, however, viz., descent from the Balbirnie's of Invergythy, is founded on fact, and those we have indicated as their descendants put this beyond any reasonable doubt, so that tradition is amply corroborated, we should say superseded by fact.

We now proceed to make some enquiry respecting the social and political status and anti-

quity of the Balbirnie's. Our investigations having been stopped as lately observed, just when we were beginning to enquire after the actual possessors of Inveryghty, and no opportunity having offered for resuming them hitherto, it may seem a bootless task to make any the least attempt to ascertain this. We do not think so, as we happen to possess data, we presume upon which to build a superstructure something more than mere conjecture, and this we think we have in the armorial bearings of the Balbirnie's.

In the Lord Lyons office of Scotland are recorded the Arms of "Balbirnie of that ilk," and in Nisbet's system of Heraldry published during the first half of last century, the blazoning is given as follows :—"Balbirnie of that ilk, Or a fesse checkie azure and argent, between three body's and thighs of armour argent, on a chief of the last three buckles of the second." No other armorial bearings of the family are to be found recorded in Lord Lyon's office, which might lead to the conclusion that the Inveryghty family either used no coat of Arms or adopted that of their kinsmen of that ilk," but from the necessity of drawing such conclusion, we are relieved by the discovery—that another coat of Arms is to be found in a MS. "Collection of the blazons of coats of Arms not to be found or imperfectly mentioned in Nisbet's Heraldry," and which MS. is in possession of David Laing, Esq., Signet Library, Edinburgh, and blazoned thus :—"The *name* Balbirnie with us, Vert, a fesse checkie argent and azure between three curiasses or Hybergeons of the second and in a chief of the same three buckles of the third." (see MS. in Signet Library, Edinburgh.)

It is not stated that these were the Arms of Inverighty, but we take it they were those of no other. Dissimilar as the blazoning in this latter is from the former the only real difference in the Arms of the two is, that in the first the field is Or, in the other Vert.

We make no pretensions to be skilled in Heraldry, nevertheless may be pardoned for presuming to make some remarks on the Arms of the Balbiriens. It may be on the principle of the well known Scotch adage "ilka craw thinks its ain bird whitest" that we look upon these arms as being at once simple and more expressive than most other Coats of Arms, and moreover that nothing could plainer intimate that originally the bearers of them were no ordinary characters, and is not this idea intensified by the fact well known to some Heraldists that the principle, or at least one of the most expressive figures thereof actually express the name, or rather perhaps the name Balbirnie or Birnie expresses the figure.

In attempting to analyze these Arms (Heraldists will laugh at our presumption possibly) we would observe first of the Fesse Checkie Argent and Azure, that we are led to think that figure has not in Great Britain been used by any others (besides the Balbiriens) than two families, the first no less than the Royal Stewarts of Scotland, the numerous branches of which extant almost invariably have it in their Arms or Quarterings, and the other the distinguished Noble house of Pitt in England.

We have with some care examined the armorial bearings of the Nobility of Great Britain and Ireland, of the Baronets and the Knights of the Bath, and find the following Nobles use this figure.

1 Duke of Atholl	7 Earl Dunmore	12 Lord Blantyre
2 Marquis Bute	8 Earl Crawford	13 Lord Erskine
3 Do. Breadalbane	9 Earl of Blessington	14 Lord Colville
4 Earl Galloway	10 Earl of Castlestewart	15 Earl Chatham
5 Earl Moray	11 Lord Douglas	16 Lord Rivers.
6 Earl Traquair		

Of these sixteen Peers the two last are Pitts. Eight are named Stewart, five others of the Royal house of Stewart by female descent, viz., Marquis Breadalbane descended from Margery, daughter of Robert, Duke of Albany. The Duke of Atholl and Earl Dunmore are descended from John, brother of James second, of Scotland. Lord Erskine is descended from a daughter of this James second, and Lord Colville from a daughter of James first of Scotland. Of the Earls Crawford, a title now extinct, we have not seen a pedigree and cannot therefore, for certain, state them to be descended from Stewart—but think it most likely.

The Baronets Stewart of Hartley Paudits, Hampshire, Stewart of Allanton, Stewart of Coltness, Rae of Eskgrove (descended from Lords Bute and Blantyre) use the figure and are all Royal Stewart. Campbell of Isle of France uses it, but no pedigree was registered in the Herald's College. Of the Knights of the Bath, the only one using it were one Pitt and two Stewarts. None other of the nobility used the Fesse Checkie. Four Baronets however do, but none of them use the checkie argent and azure. Boyd of Danson's checkie is or and gules, Stepney of Prendergast have their checkie or and azure, and Lees of Blackrock, Dublin, and Curtis of Cullonsgrove, Middlesex, have theirs, argent and sable.

Not having had access to the Coats of Arms of the gentry of these kingdoms, cannot say whether any of them other than Royal Stewarts and Pitts use this figure; be this as it may, from the facts now detailed, we argue that had not the Balbirnies been in a distinguished social position, this figure in their Armorial bearings never would have been granted them. But further to our mind the other figures on the shield are still more remarkable and telling, indicating probably their antiquity, we would add certainly their character, in fact these figures are nearly unique, part of them we do not remember to have met with on any other shield, the other parts but seldom; to us the whole seem to have a meaning quite transparent, that to our dull intellect most Coats of Arms want.

These figures are strikingly suggestive of chivalry, carrying our minds back to ages long gone bye, and declaring as plainly as anything hieroglyphic can do, that this house must have been ancient and chivalric, that its founder or founders were not craven. Gentle reader, what are those figures, why, first a *Coat of Mail*, nay more, *THREE Coats of Mail*. This remarkable figure could not have been adopted, could not have been permitted to be

used, we opine, upon the shield of any but giants in chivalry ; but what of the triplet--what is this reiteration meant to express ? possibly it was permitted to the original bearer of the shield after having distinguished himself on *three* battle fields, or mayhap its origin may have arisen from a sire in the wane of life, or his widow after he had fallen in his country's cause, sending *three* stalwart and beloved sons into the field to fight their country's battles, or to repair to the Crusades, each carrying on his shield the figure of a Coat of Mail—then we ~~may~~ might fancy them returning victorious to their roof-tree, or all perishing on the field, and in either case in testimony of their devotion to the profession of arms, and to commemorate either their deaths, or the success of their lives, the figure of three Coats of Mail were inserted on the family shield, as an heirloom to the family in all coming time. We may here call attention to a fact at which we formerly hinted, viz., that the name Balbirnie, or perhaps Binie (dropping the prefix) *means* a Coat of Mail. Of this fact we were quite ignorant, till one of the Heralds, of the Herald's College, London, remarked it on the arms being shewn to him, since which the writer has learned that the late Mr. James Balbirnie Craig was well aware of this fact, and was wont to tell his children and grandchildren that "Balbirnie meant a Coat of Mail." Further still, the remaining figures on the shield give point to that upon which we have now descanted—what means the buckles ? Yea, the *three* buckles, surely it is suggestive of there having been no unwillingness to *buckle on the armour*, how marvellously appropriate then do the coats of mail and the buckles stand in juxta position, in admirable harmony giving point and effect to each other. Our discussion of these topics may be considered fanciful. We ask are not our views reasonable.

It must be confessed how chivalrous soever the ancient members of this house may—must have been, and as the last laird of Inverygnty doubtless was, their descendants of modern times have sadly (if indeed it be cause for sadness) degenerated, for as far as we have heard, not one of them for ages adopted the profession of Arms, excepting the son of the late Mr. James Balbirnie of Kirkaldy, who was slain at the battle of Camperdown—and the very few years our father served in Ireland. Mr. Robert Anstruther Balbirnie Vans is the only other one that of late has manifested anything of a chivalrous spirit and disposition. For many years previously to emigrating to Australia he was a member of the corps of Renfrewshire Yeomanry Cavalry, and on his arrival in England 1854, just at the opening of the Crimean campaign, seemed to have all the chivalrous fire of his ancient ancestors so aroused, as actually to contemplate offering himself a volunteer to proceed to the Crimea, and was deterred only by the consideration of having brought with him his wife and large family for a brief sojourn in Britain.

Reiterating what has been already said, we submit the Balbirnie "Arms" are unusually expressive and bear the indubitable appearance of having been granted to persons of consideration in the palmier days of chivalry, many—many ages gone by.

